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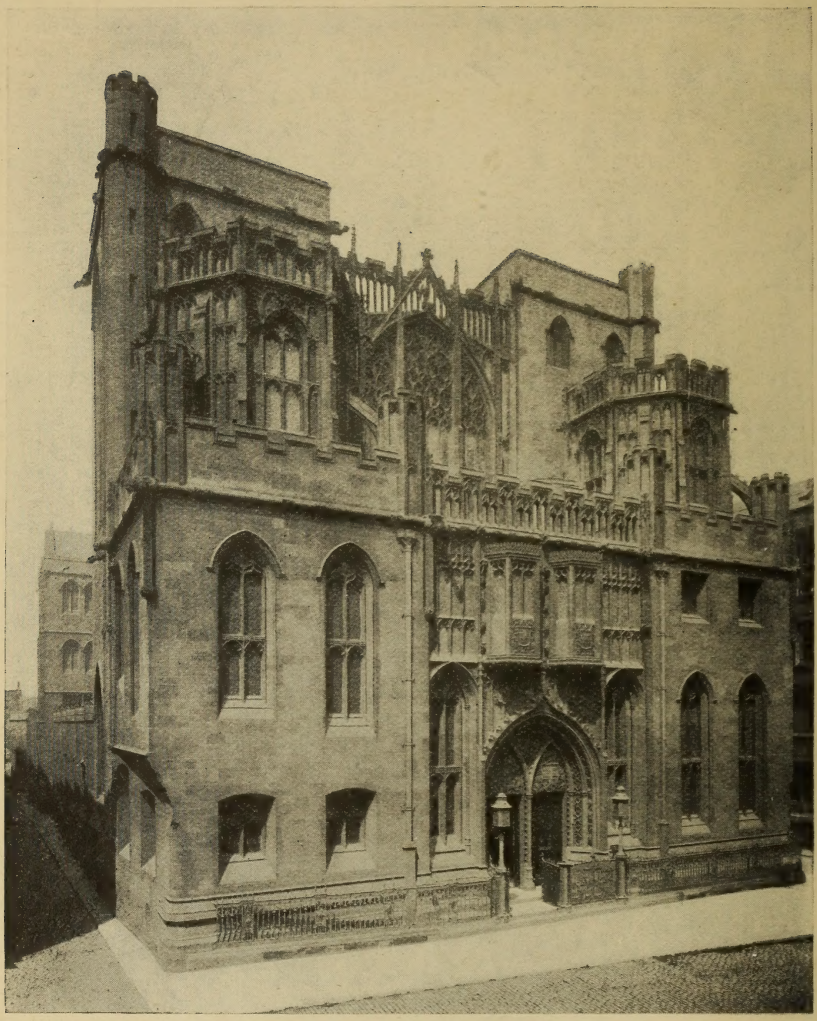

1. EXTERIOR VIEW OF THE LIBRARY

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By HENRY GUPPY, M.A.
LIBRARIAN

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PREFATORY NOTE.

THE following pages contain a brief review of the history and work of the John Rylands Library during the twenty-one years which have elapsed since its inauguration in 1899-1900.

It was written to commemorate the library's coming of age, and was first published in the January issue of the "Bulletin".

It is reissued in the present form, with some additional matter in the shape of illustrations, to signalise the visit to the library of the members of the Library Association, on the occasion of the holding of their annual conference in this city.

Twenty-two years have elapsed since the Association last met in Manchester. In the interval much has happened. In her determined efforts to place herself in the front rank of cities which are true cities, Manchester has been eminently successful. Aided by the benefactions of many of the citizens whom she has delighted to honour, and whose names have become household words, she has raised herself to the proud position of being as great a city of culture and art, as hitherto she has been of commerce.

In September, 1899, the date of the last Manchester Conference, the College of Technology, in which this year's ordinary sessions are being held, was still in course of construction; the University of Manchester, which is to day the most vigorous and the most famous of the younger Universities, was at that time known as "The Owens College," and was one of the constituent colleges of the Victoria University; the institution to which these pages more particularly refer, which for ten years had been gradually rising from the ground, was on the eve of its official opening, and has since become one of the most attractive places of pilgrimage in the North of England to the student and book-lover.

Some disappointment was naturally felt, at the time, by members of the Association, that during their visit to Manchester no oppor-

tunity could be afforded them for inspecting the new library. No one regretted the circumstances more keenly than did Mrs. Rylands and the writer, but it was obviously impossible to give access to the building during the time that preparations were in progress for the opening ceremony, which was to take place in the month following, namely on the 6th of October.

Many members attending the Conference did return, however, a month later, as the guests of Mrs. Rylands, to assist at the formal inauguration ceremony, which was at once simple, dignified, and impressive, and one that was likely to live in the minds of all who were privileged to be present.

It follows, nevertheless, that the Association as a body has not hitherto paid an official visit to the library, and it is with the greatest possible pleasure, therefore, that the Chairman of the Council and the Governors, with the Librarian, extend to them a most cordial welcome.

With the object of conveying to our guests some idea of the character of the collections which have made this library famous in the world of letters, and which at the same time have helped to make Manchester a centre of attraction for scholars from all parts of the world, we have arranged in the main reading-room an exhibition of some of the library's most famous possessions, both manuscript and printed.

We have also included in this brochure, a number of views of the building, and facsimiles of some of the outstanding manuscripts and printed books which are included in the exhibition, to which we have added a few descriptive paragraphs, in the hope that it may serve as a memento of the visit.

HENRY GUPPY.

The John Rylands Library,
13*th September*, 1921.

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11. Section of one of the Four Floors of the Steel Book-stack . . 9

12. Librarian's Work-room 10

13. The Early Printed Book-room 11

14. The "St. Christopher Block-print". 1423 14

*** The earliest known piece of European printing to which a date is attached, and of which no other copy is known.

15. A Page from the "Biblia Pauperum". About 1450 15

*** The "Biblia Pauperum" or "Bible for the Poor" consists of a series of pictures, printed from wood-blocks, during the second quarter of the fifteenth century, probably in Germany. The scheme of the work is to represent by means of pictures, each of which is divided into three compartments, a scene from the life of Christ, in the centre, with prefigurations, or types, from the Old Testament on either side, accompanied by rhyming verses and texts, with the object of familiarising the illiterate with the principal events of the Bible.

The scenes illustrated in the facsimile are: "The translation of Enoch," "The Ascension of Our Lord," "Elijah received up into Heaven".

16. A Page from the First Printed Edition of Boccaccio's "Il Decamerone". 1471 16

*** The first edition of "Il Decamerone" was printed at Venice in 1471, by a printer named Valdarfer. This is the only perfect copy extant, the rarity of which is attributed to its having formed part of an edition committed to the "bonfire of the Vanities" in 1497, by the Florentines, through the teaching of Savonarola.

It became famous in 1812, when, at the sale of the Duke of Roxburghe's library, it was sold to the Marquis of Blandford for the, at that time

To face Page

unprecedented, price of £2260. Emerson in one of his essays makes allusion to this incident in the words "at the tap of the auctioneer's hammer Boccaccio turned in his grave". It was in honour of this volume and its sale that the famous "Roxburghe Club" was founded.

17. "Death-bed Prayers," Printed by William Caxton. About 1484 . . 17

*** Of this broadside, or single sheet, printed only on one side of the paper, no other copy is known to exist.

From the language of the two prayers it seems evident that they were intended for use at the bed-side of a dying person. They were probably printed in this portable form for priests, and others, to carry about with them.

18. A Page from Caxton's "Golden Legend". 1483 26

*** The "Golden Legend" was the largest and most extensive of all Caxton's literary and typographical undertakings.

The translation, which was Caxton's own work, was made from the French version by Jean de Vignay. The original Latin work was compiled by Jacobus de Voragine, archbishop of Genoa from 1292 to 1298.

The work may be said to contain the earliest portion of the Bible printed in English, comprising, as it does, a fairly literal translation of nearly the whole of the Pentateuch, and a great part of the Gospels, mixed up with a good deal of mediæval gloss, under the guise of the lives of Adam, Abraham, Moses, the Apostles, and others. It must have been extensively read by the people, or to the people, long before the days of Tindale and Coverdale, since numerous editions were printed during the latter years of the fifteenth and the early part of the sixteenth century.

The reading in Genesis iii. 7 of "breeches" for "aprons," which is generally thought to be peculiar to the "Genevan version" of the Bible of 1560, and has led to its popular designation "Breeches Bible," was anticipated by Caxton in this volume.

19. A Page of the "Aldine Vergil". 1501 27

*** This edition of Vergil, printed at Venice by the famous scholar-printer, Aldus Manutius, marks a real innovation in the art of typography.

The *italic* type, which was employed for the first time in the printing of this volume, is said to be a close copy of the handwriting of Petrarch, and was cut for the printer by Francesco da Bologna, who has been identified by one authority with the painter, Francesco Raibolini, better known as Francia.

The new type was a great success, as it enabled the printer to compress into the small dainty format, by which the press of Aldus is best remembered, as much matter as the purchaser could heretofore buy in a large folio. The public welcomed the innovation, which not only meant reduction in size, but also considerable reduction in price, with the result that the wide diffusion of books, and the popularisation of knowledge, at which Aldus aimed was attained.

The copy from which the reproduction is made is on vellum, and is illuminated by hand.

20. The Bible Room 28

21. A Page from an Early Wiclifite "New Testament" Manuscript. About 1400 29

*** The earlier version of the Wiclifite Bible was partly made by Wiclif himself, and partly prepared under his supervision by Nicholas de Hereford, and others. It was completed about 1382, two years before Wiclif's death. It gave so literal a rendering of the Latin Bible, from which it was translated, as to be in many places obscure. Soon after its completion a thorough revision was undertaken, which was carried to a successful issue by John Purvey, the friend of Wiclif's last days.

To face Page

22. A Page from the First Printed Bible. [1456?] 30

*** This Latin Bible was amongst the first productions of the printing-press in Europe, and the earliest of any size that has survived to the present day.

The first copy to attract attention was one in the library of Cardinal Mazarin, to which fact it owes its popular name of "Mazarin Bible". To bibliographers it is known as the "42-line Bible," from the number of lines to a printed column, to distinguish it from another one printed about the same time, and styled for a similar reason the "36-line Bible".

The city of Mainz has been generally recognised as the place where both Bibles were printed, although there is still a difference of opinion upon the point.

There is also a difference of opinion with regard to the printer. The name of Johann Gutenberg has been suggested by some authorities; by others it is assumed that Johann Fust, to whom Gutenberg was originally indebted for financial assistance, and his son-in-law, Peter Schoeffer, were mainly responsible for it.

The book itself contains no definite information as to the names of the printers, the place of printing, or the date, but from the evidence of a note left by the rubricator of a copy preserved in the "Bibliothèque Nationale," Paris, it is assumed that the work was completed sometime before August 24, 1456.

23. A Page from Luther's First "New Testament". September, 1522 . . 31

*** The woodcuts illustrating the Apocalypse are attributed to Lucas Cranach. In this (September) issue the Dragon and the Scarlet Woman are each depicted wearing a tiara in the manner of the Popes. This gave such offence that in the second issue of December, 1522 (of which there is a copy also in the library) the offending illustrations were cancelled, and an ordinary crown was substituted for the tiara in both instances.

24. A Page From William Tindale's "Pentateuch". [1530-34.] . . . 38

*** This volume containing the five books of Moses was the first portion of the Old Testament to be translated directly from the original Hebrew, and printed in English.

The translator, William Tindale, having completed and issued his version of the New Testament in 1525 or early in 1526, settled down to the study of Hebrew, in order to qualify himself for the translation of the Old Testament. In 1527 he took refuge in "Marburg," where in the intervals of study he found time to prepare his two most important controversial works, which constituted his manifesto, and early in 1530 his translation of the "Pentateuch" made direct from the Hebrew, with the aid of Luther's German version, was ready for circulation.

There are grounds for believing the place-name of "Marburg" or "Marlborow," which is found in the imprint to indicate the place of printing to be fictitious, being adopted in order to conceal the place of printing which was not improbably Antwerp.

This copy has the marginal glosses intact. With few exceptions these are found to be cut away, as ordered by the Bishop, at least the "most pestilent" of them. The reason for the order is obvious from the gloss on the page reproduced.

25. Title-page of the First Printed Complete English Bible (Coverdale's). 1535 39

*** The translation was made not from the original Greek and Hebrew, but from the Vulgate and other versions, by a Yorkshireman, Miles Coverdale, afterwards Bishop of Exeter. Nothing definite is known as to the place of printing, but certain features point to Zurich and to Christopher Froschover.

There is a curious reading in Jeremiah iii. 22, where "Balm in Gilead" is rendered "Triacle at Galaad".

The Psalter in the "Book of Common Prayer" is substantially the same as that printed in the "Coverdale Bible" of 1535, and actually the same as that printed in the "Great Bible" of 1539.

To face Page

26. TITLE-PAGE OF THE "GREAT BIBLE". 1539 40

*** The first edition of the "Great Bible," so called from its size, and from the fact that it is referred to, in the Injunctions issued to the clergy by Thomas Cromwell in 1538, as: "the hole byble of the largyest volume" ordered to be "set vp in sum conuenient place wythin the said church that ye haue cure of, where-as your parishoners may most cõmodiously resorte to the same and reade it".

It is a revision by Coverdale of "Matthew's Bible" of 1537, by the aid and with the assistance of Thomas Cromwell. It was printed partly at Paris and partly at London.

The "Psalter" in the "Book of Common Prayer" is the same as that printed in this Bible.

27. TITLE PAGE OF THE "AUTHORISED VERSION" OF THE BIBLE. 1611 . . 41

*** The first edition of "King James's Bible," commonly called the "Authorised Version".

The idea of this new translation was due to John Rainolds, President of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, the Puritan leader at the Hampton Court Conference, 1604. The King took up the proposal warmly, and its achievement was due to his royal interest and influence. The translators numbered about fifty, and were divided into six companies, each company being responsible for a certain section of the Scriptures.

28. TITLE-PAGE OF HENRY VIII.'S "ASSERTIO SEPTEM SACRAMENTORUM". 1521 42

*** This is the work, said to have been written by Henry VIII. against Luther, for which he received the title "Defensor Fidei".

Three copies printed on vellum are known. The one under description was a presentation copy to Louis II., King of Hungary, and bears the inscription in Henry's handwriting "Regi Daciae". On the binding are the arms of Pope Pius VI.

29. TITLE-PAGE OF SHAKESPEARE'S "SONNETS". 1609 43

*** The first edition of Shakespeare's "Sonnets" was surreptitiously sent to the press by T. Thorpe. The licence for its publication was obtained on May 20, 1609, and the volume appeared in June, in which month Edward Alleyn (the founder of Dulwich College) paid 5d. for a copy, the same figure as appears in manuscript on the title-page of this one.

30. TITLE-PAGE OF THE "FIRST FOLIO" OF THE WORKS OF SHAKESPEARE, 1623 44

31. PAPYRUS ROLL. DEMOTIC AND GREEK. A.D. 29 45

*** This document of the time of our Lord shows the common writing material, and the form of Greek script in use at the time. Papyrus was employed in Egypt from a very early date as a material for writing, whence its use gradually spread to neighbouring countries. It was prepared from the papyrus plant, which in ancient times grew in abundance beside the Nile, by cutting the pith of the stem into thin longitudinal strips. These were placed side by side, and another layer of strips laid on them at right angles. The layers were then united by means of pressure and moisture, adhesion being furthered probably by the glutinous character of the pith, or by the addition of glue. When dried and polished the sheets were then ready for use. The original strength of the papyrus thus prepared for writing is estimated to have been about the same as that of modern paper. Owing to its want of durability any document liable to much handling could not survive for more than a limited period. On such perishable material the books of the New Testament must have been originally written, so that the disappearance of the autograph copies through constant use, apart from other dangers incidental to their circulation, need not occasion any surprise.

The upper portion of the papyrus exhibited, which relates to the sale of a house in the Faiyûm district of Egypt, is written in the demotic form of Egyptian writing, whilst the lower part is in the current Greek script, of a character similar to that which is likely to have been used by the writers of the New Testament.

To face Page

32. A Page from the "Trier Psalter". 9th Century 46

*** The Latin Psalter from which this page has been reproduced was written in Germany, in the early part of the ninth century, and is a very fine example of the Celtic style of art.

From a manuscript note, apparently coeval with the text, inserted in the margin of the calendar for May we gather that the volume was originally in the possession of the abbey of St. Maximin of Trier. This note records how Ada, sister of Charlemagne, left much property to the monastery of St. Maximin, and on her decease was buried there. She also bequeathed a "copy of the Gospels written with gold and decorated with gold," which volume is still preserved in Trier in its Stadtbibliothek.

33. A Page from the "Emperor Otto's Gospel Book". 10th Century . . 47

*** The copy of the Gospels in Latin, from which this page is reproduced, was written and illuminated for the Emperor Otto the Great (A.D. 912-973), whose portrait is here shown painted on small medallions with inscriptions around them. The style of the work indicates Cologne as the place of provenance.

34. St. John from a "Greek Gospels" of the 11th Century 48

*** The miniature which is reproduced from a Byzantine copy of the Gospels, executed in the early part of the eleventh century, represents St. John the Evangelist holding in his right hand the pen with which the sacred volume upon his knees is being written. In front of him is a scholar's cabinet, with the key in the hasp-lock, of which this miniature gives probably the earliest known representation. On the desk above the cabinet are displayed the various implements used by the ancient scribe in the exercise of his craft—inkpot, dividers, knife for erasure, etc. A pillar at the back of the desk supports a mirror evidently intended to act as a reflector to the hanging lamp, which is suspended from it.

35. St. John from a "Greek Gospels" of the 11th Century 49

*** The miniature, which is also reproduced from a Byzantine copy of the Gospels, represent St. John, follows the Greek tradition, which says that he dictated his Gospel to a disciple named Prochorus. In the upper right-hand corner of the picture is a hand coming forth from a cloud to indicate the presence and activity of the Divine Spirit. St. John stands in the centre, with his left hand raised towards that divine manifestation, in order to receive the heavenly inspiration, and his right hand stretched down towards Prochorus, who is seated at the left hand and writing the opening words of the Gospel: "Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος".

36. St. Beatus on the Apocalypse. Followed by the Commentary of St. Jerome on Daniel. About A.D. 1150 50

*** Written in the North of Spain (Old Castile or Aragon). With 110 large miniatures, painted on grounds of deep and vivid colour. One of the finest Spanish manuscripts of this period in existence.

St. Beatus was abbot of Valcavado, near Saldaña, in Old Castile. He died in A.D. 798.

37. A Page from "Joan of Navarre's Psalter". About 1260 . . . 51

*** This beautiful French manuscript was written in Paris, probably by the same person who executed the manuscripts given by St. Louis to the Sainte Chapelle.

It belonged at one time to Jeanne de Navarre (Queen Consort of Henry IV., King of England), whose autograph appears on one of the blank leaves.

To face Page

38. A Page of a Manuscript "Apocalypse". 14th Century 52

*** This manuscript consists of a series of ninety-six miniatures on twenty-four leaves, illustrating the scenes of the Apocalypse, with explanatory legends in Latin written in red and black. It was executed in Northern France about the middle of the 14th century.

39. A Page from "Lydgate's Siege of Troy". About 1420 53

*** At the beginning of this stately English manuscript, measuring nearly 17 by 13 inches, and having upwards of seventy pages illuminated in the style of the one reproduced, is an illustration of the author presenting his work to King Henry V. At the end are the arms of William Carent of Carent's Court, in the Isle of Purbeck, who was born in 1344, and is known to have been alive in 1422. It was for him doubtless that the manuscript was written.

40. A Page from a "Book of Hours" executed about 1430 for King Charles VII. of France 54

*** A note in this manuscript attributes it to the same hand that executed the famous "Bedford Missal".

41. A Page from a "Book of Hours" of the "School of Jean Foucquet". About 1490 A.D. 55

*** This manuscript was executed, probably in the South of France, by an artist of the school of Jean Foucquet, for Jacques Galliot de Gordon de Genouillac, grand-écuyer de France and grand maître d'artillerie.

42. A Page from the "Colonna Missal". About 1517 56

*** This manuscript was executed for Cardinal Pompeo Colonna, who was elected a member of the Sacred College in A.D. 1517, and died in A.D. 1532.

The tradition handed down by the family was that the large full-page illuminations were executed by Raphael about 1517 on the elevation of the owner to the cardinalate; but recent investigations have shown that there is a close similarity in style to that of the "Farnese Psalter," which is commonly associated with the craftsmanship of the painter Clovio, but was more probably the work of Vincenzio Raimondi and his associate copyist.

43. The Glasgow Aeschylus of 1795, bound by Roger Payne . . . 57

*** In this volume are contained the original drawings of John Flaxman, executed expressly for the first Countess Spencer, in illustration of the tragedies of Aeschylus. These reveal a freedom, yet delicacy of touch, of which the plates engraved after them fail to give any adequate idea.

The binding forms a worthy covering to the book, being the recognised masterpiece of Roger Payne, whose work at the end of the eighteenth century entitles him, in the opinion of book-lovers, to the highest position amongst the followers of his craft in this country.

2. THE MAIN LIBRARY

3. STATUE OF JOHN RYLANDS IN THE MAIN LIBRARY

THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY.

A RECORD OF TWENTY-ONE YEARS' WORK.

1900 JANUARY 1921.

BY THE LIBRARIAN.

THE 1st of January, 1921, marks an epoch in the history of the John Rylands Library, seeing that the twenty-first anniversary of the opening of its doors to readers, an event which all but synchronised with the advent of the twentieth century, is commemorated on that day.

It is true that the dedication ceremony had taken place some three months earlier, namely, on the 6th of October, 1899, but the interval of three months between the handing over of the building by the contractor in the preceding July and the formal inauguration, was found to be too short to allow of the completion of the necessary arrangements preliminary to the admission of readers, so that the actual opening of the library doors was postponed until the 1st of January following.

The initial stock of books with which the library commenced its career consisted of nearly 70,000 volumes. These were transferred from Longford Hall, the residence of Mrs. Rylands, where they had been gradually accumulated, to the new building in the month of July, and had to be checked, classified and arranged upon the shelves, before they could be regarded as available to the prospective readers, in whose interests they had been brought together; for until such a collection has been properly classified and catalogued it is little better than a "mob of books," and the title "library" cannot be fittingly applied to it. Therefore the interval between the inauguration and the actual opening of the library was devoted to the completion of these arrangements, and to the organisation of the administrative machinery, with a view to the provision of an efficient service together with the adequate safeguards which are essential to such an institution.

As we look back over those twenty-one years, we cannot help feeling that this anniversary is an occasion which unites the past, the present, and the future in happy association. It awakens feelings of intense gratitude for a great bestowal, followed by a great bequest, which make the horizon of the future bright with hope, since, in accordance with the wish and intention of the founder, these benefactions are being devoted to the encouragement of scholarship and original investigation. It may truly be said that in aiding those who are conducting research all other causes are, at the same time, effectively advanced.

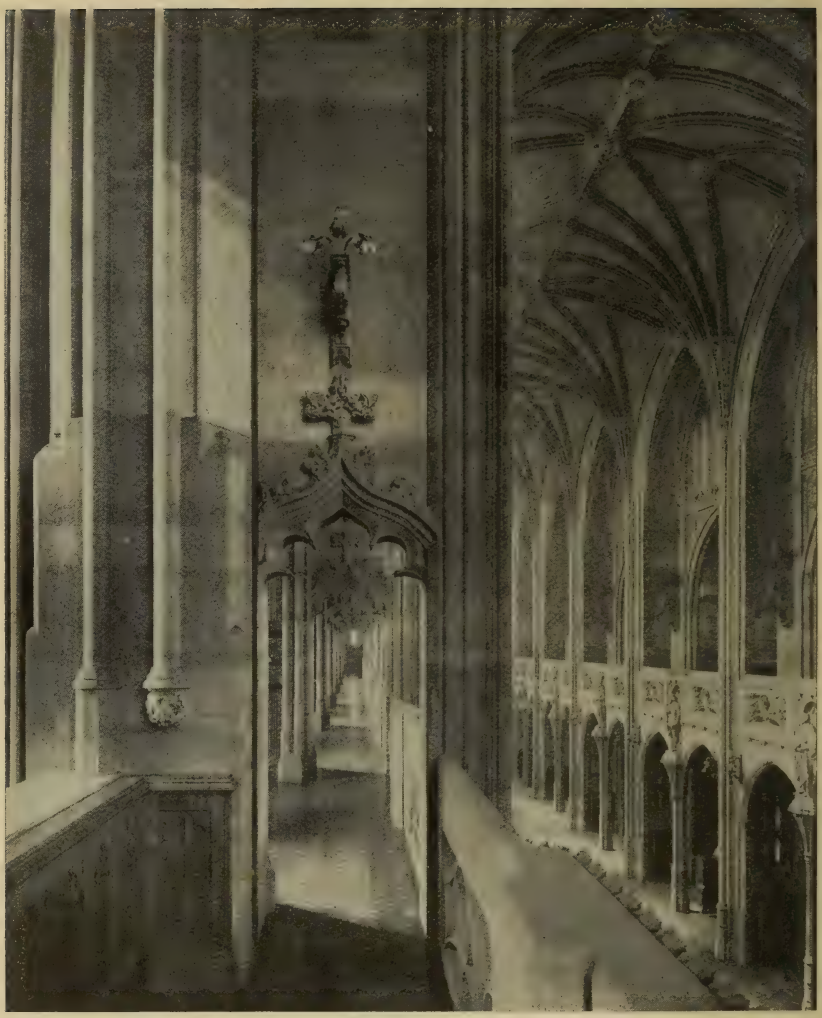
For that reason we venture briefly to review the history of the library from the date of its inception, in the hope that others, richly dowered as was the founder of this institution, who have not yet given thought as to the disposition of their wealth, may be induced to follow the example of Mrs. Rylands and dedicate their remaining years to some such worthy object, and by so doing invest their lives with a new and larger interest.

The library, whose coming of age we commemorate in these pages, owes its existence to the enlightened munificence of the late Enriqueta Augustina Rylands, the widow of John Rylands, by whom it was erected, equipped, and liberally endowed as a memorial to her late husband, whose name it perpetuates.

There is little glamour of romance about the life of the man to whose memory this library is dedicated. It was a life of hard work, frugality, and persistent endeavour, which enabled him to climb, step by step, to the almost unparalleled position which he ultimately attained in the Manchester trade.

Born at St. Helens on the 7th of February, 1801, and educated at the Grammar School of his native town, John Rylands early displayed an aptitude for trade. After carrying on a small weaving concern of his own, he entered into partnership, when barely eighteen years of age, with his two elder brothers, Joseph and Richard. Their father joined them in 1819, when the firm of Rylands & Sons was established, with its seat of operations at Wigan. John, the youngest partner, occupied himself in travelling for orders until 1823, when he opened a warehouse for the firm in Manchester, on the site of the present range of warehouses in New High Street. Business increased rapidly, and in 1825 the firm became merchants as well as manufacturers.

4. SECTION OF THE MAIN LIBRARY, SHOWING A READING ALCOVE



5. GALLERY CORRIDOR IN THE MAIN LIBRARY

Joseph and Richard retired from the business about 1839, and upon the death of their father, in July, 1847, John became sole proprietor of the undertaking.

John Rylands was endowed with that abounding energy coupled with sagacity and financial ability which enabled him to turn to good account many an enterprise that other men had been unable to develop, and which they had regarded as worthless. By men of affairs, with whom he did business, he was looked upon as very astute and far-seeing. He took up one enterprise after another and made of each an upward step in his career, which was one of uninterrupted prosperity. In all his undertakings he was a tremendous worker. Not only was he a great organiser and administrator, he was also a remarkable judge of men, and by surrounding himself with men of character and ability who were able to assist him in his numerous enterprises, he built up the immense business concern with which his name is still associated.

John Rylands was of a peculiarly retiring and sensitive disposition, and always shrank from public office of any kind, although he was not by any means indifferent to public interests. When the Manchester Ship Canal was mooted and there seemed doubt as to the ways and means for the enterprise, he took up £50,000 worth of shares, increasing his contribution when the project appeared again to be in danger. His charities were numerous but unobtrusive. Among other benefactions he established and maintained orphanages, homes for aged gentlewomen, a home of rest for ministers of slender means, and he provided a town-hall, baths, library, and a coffee-house in Stretford, the village, near Manchester, in which he resided for so many years. His benefactions to the poor of Rome were so liberal as to induce the King of Italy to decorate him with the order of the Crown of Italy.

For many years he employed competent scholars to prepare special editions of the Bible and religious works, which he printed for free distribution. These include: The Holy Bible arranged in numbered paragraphs: a large quarto volume of 1272 pages, first issued in 1863, with an excellent topical index extending to 272 pages, and of which two subsequent editions were printed in 1878 and 1886 respectively. Diodati's Italian Bible, similarly arranged and indexed, was printed for distribution in Italy. Ostervald's French Testament, arranged on a similar plan, was also printed for distribution in France. "Hymns of the Church Universal, with prefaces, annotations, and

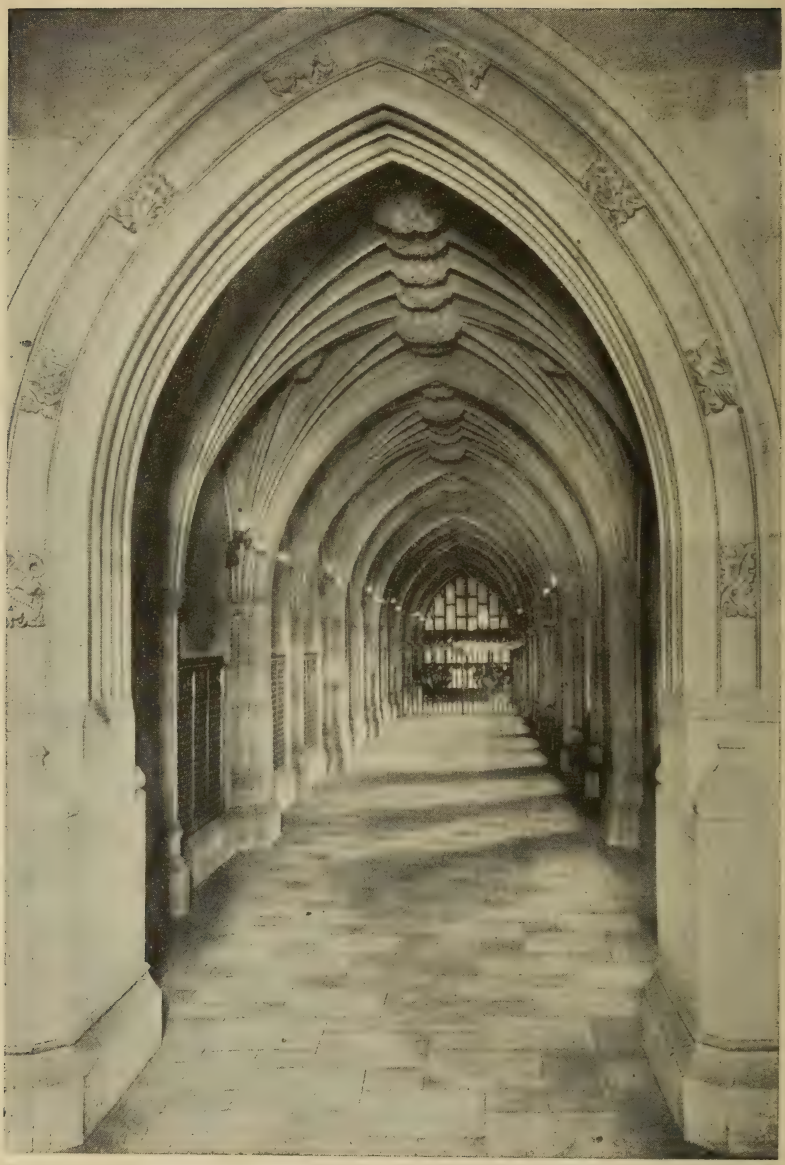
indexes:" a volume in roy. 8vo, of 604 pages, which was issued in 1885, is a selection from a collection of 60,000 hymns made by Mr. Rylands, which is preserved in the library in thirty-four folio volumes, with a manuscript index extending to nine volumes of like dimensions.

Furthermore, Mr. Rylands took an interest in all that related to literature, but the absorbing cares of business necessarily prevented him from living as much as he would have wished among books. He was always ready, however, to extend his help and encouragement to students. He took a special interest in adding to the studies of the poorer Free Church ministers gifts of books which were beyond their own slender means to provide, but which were necessary to keep them in touch with the trend of modern religious thought, since, in many cases, they were stationed in rural districts remote from anything in the nature of a library.

When, therefore, upon the death of Mr. Rylands, which took place on the 11th of December, 1888, Mrs. Rylands found herself entrusted with the disposal of his great wealth, she resolved to commemorate the name of her husband, by dedicating to his memory an institution devoted to the encouragement of learning, which should be placed in the very heart of the city which had been the scene of his varied activities and triumphs. She recalled the little library at Longford Hall, Stretford, which Mr. Rylands had watched over with so much care, and which in its time and measure had been of incalculable benefit to many a struggling minister. She also remembered how great an interest he had taken in theological studies, and accordingly resolved to establish a library in which theology should occupy a prominent place, where the theological student should find all the material necessary for his study and research. It was intended to be a religious foundation in the broadest sense of the words. There were to be no sectarian limitations to vex the students who should come to read, no "index expurgatorius" to exclude from the shelves any author who might happen to propound theological views contrary to those held by the founder.

With this idea of the library in view, Mrs. Rylands, in 1889, entered upon the collection of standard authorities in all departments of literature, and in the year 1890 the erection of the present building was commenced from the design of Mr. Basil Champneys.

6. THE MAIN STAIRCASE



7. THE EAST CLOISTER

The scheme was conceived in no narrow spirit. Mrs. Rylands was a woman of catholic ideas, and allowed the purpose she had in view to mature and fructify as time went on. It was fortunate that she proceeded in a leisurely manner, since various unforeseen circumstances helped to give a shape to the contemplated memorial, which neither she nor anyone else could have anticipated.

Whilst the building was rising from the ground books were being accumulated, but without ostentation, and few people were aware that a great library was in process of formation.

The only interruption of the perfect quiet with which this project was pursued, occurred in 1892, some two years after the builders had commenced their work of construction, when there came to Mrs. Rylands an opportunity of giving to this memorial a grandeur which at first had not been contemplated. In that year it was announced that Earl Spencer had decided to dispose of that most famous of all private collections "The Althorp Library". Lord Spencer wisely stipulated with the agent, that a purchaser should be found for the collection as a whole, so as to obviate its dispersal in all directions. For some time this object seemed to be impossible of realisation, but when the matter was brought to the notice of Mrs. Rylands she recognised that the possession of such a collection would be the crowning glory of her design, and at an expenditure of nearly a quarter of a million of money she decided to become the purchaser.

As soon as it was announced that this famous collection had been saved from the disaster of dispersal, and was to find a home in Manchester, a great sigh of relief went up all over the country. The nation was relieved to know that so many of its priceless literary treasures were to be secured for all time against the risk of transportation, and the public spirit which Mrs. Rylands had manifested was greeted with a chorus of grateful approbation.

Although the Althorp Library, which consisted of rather more than 40,000 volumes, is but part of the John Rylands Library, which to-day numbers upwards of 250,000 volumes, it is, by common consent, the most splendid part. Renouard, the French bibliographer, described it as "The most beautiful and richest private library in Europe," and another writer has spoken of it as "a collection which stands above all rivalry". Its distinguishing feature is the collection of early printed books, which, in point of condition, is probably with-

out rival, thanks to the book-loving and scholarly instincts possessed by the second Earl Spencer, the founder of the library at Althorp, who for something like forty years haunted the salerooms and booksellers' shops throughout Europe in his eagerness to enrich his collection with whatever was fine and rare.

Thus it may be said that a collection of books had been acquired for Manchester which in many respects was unrivalled, the possession of which gave to the city a distinction enjoyed by few others. In doing this Mrs. Rylands had enlarged the scope of her original plan, and decided to establish a library that should be at once "a place of pilgrimage to the lover of rare books," and a "live library" for the stimulation of learning, and for the extension of the boundaries of human knowledge, whether in the departments of theology, philosophy, history, philology, literature, art, or bibliography, where students would find not merely the useful appliances for carrying on their work, but an atmosphere with a real sense of inspiration, which would assist them to carry it on in the loftiest spirit.

In this great metropolis of the North of England, which had already placed itself in the front rank of cities which are true cities, which had raised itself to a position of eminence amongst the universities of the world, and had come to be regarded as an important centre of intellectual activity, a place was already open for such an institution, and in a short time it gained a reputation that it might have taken a century or perhaps centuries to acquire, if ever it could have been acquired at all, had it begun in the ordinary way. It is not surprising therefore that it received the hearty welcome of the scholars of the country, and sprang as if by magic into a high place among the great libraries not only of this country but of the world.

There is a vast difference between a bequest and a bestowal, but we are accustomed to speak of them in the same terms, although in reality there is a moral distinction between the two which compels us to put them in altogether different classes of action. A benefactor who gives her money while she lives is on a higher plane than one who resorts to testamentary methods to dispose of it.

It has been said that a man who wants to build a library or similar institution will save himself a great deal of trouble and anxiety by letting somebody else build it after he is dead. This was not the view held by Mrs. Rylands, she preferred to build during her lifetime, and gave

8. OCTAGON AT END OF CORRIDOR IN NEW WING

9. ONE OF THE STAFF COMMON ROOMS

personal attention to every detail of the scheme, being ever ready to accept new ideas and to adjust herself to them.

After ten years of loving and anxious care the building was ready for occupation. Only those who were associated with Mrs. Rylands know how much she put into those ten years. From the very inception of her scheme she took the keenest possible interest in it, devoting almost all her time, thought, and energy to it. Not only every detail in the construction of the building, but every other detail of the scheme in general, was carried out under her personal supervision. Nothing escaped her scrutiny, and it would be impossible to say how many admirable features were the result of her personal suggestion. No expense was spared. The architect was commissioned to design a building which should be an ornament to Manchester, in the construction of which only the best materials should be employed, and it is not too much to say that stone-mason, sculptor, metal-worker, and wood-carver have conspired under the direction of the architect, and under the watchful eye of the founder, to construct a building in every way worthy of the priceless collection of treasures which it was intended to house, and one which has come to be regarded by competent authorities as one of the finest specimens of modern Gothic architecture to be found in this or in any country.

It was on the 6th of October, 1899, that this building and its contents were formally dedicated to the public, in the presence of a large and distinguished gathering of people from all parts of Europe. The inaugural address was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Fairbairn, Principal of Mansfield College, Oxford—an address in every sense worthy of a great occasion, from which a few passages may be appropriately quoted :—

"It would have been a comparatively simple and easy thing for Mrs. Rylands, out of her large means, to set aside a sum ample enough to build this edifice, to equip and endow this institution. She had only to select an architect and choose a librarian, to summon to her side ministers and agents capable of carrying out her will, saying to them : 'Here is money, spend it in the princeliest way you can, and, if more be needed, more will be at your command'. But she did not so read her duty. The ideal created in her imagination, by the memory and character of her husband, was one she alone could realise. And she proceeded to realise it, with the results that we this day behold.

Nothing was too immense, or too intricate to be mastered, nothing was too small to be overlooked. The architect has proved himself a genius. He has adorned Manchester, he has enriched England with one of the most distinguished and the most perfect architectural achievements of this century. . . . The library will be entitled to take its place among the deathless creations of love. To multitudes it will be simply the John Rylands Library, built by the munificence of his widow. . . . But to the few, and those the few who know, it will for ever remain the most marvellous thing in history, as the tribute of a wife's admiration of her husband, and her devotion to his memory. The opening of this library calls for national jubilation. All citizens who desire to see England illumined, reasonable, right, will rejoice that there came into the heart of one who inherited the wealth of this great Manchester merchant, the desire to create for him so seemly a monument as this. It stands here fitly in a city where wealth is made, to help to promote the culture, to enlarge the liberty, to confirm the faith, to illumine the way of its citizens, small and great."

At the conclusion of this ceremony Mrs. Rylands was summoned to the Town Hall to receive the freedom of the City of Manchester, as the highest distinction that it is in the power of the city authorities to bestow.

The scroll on which the freedom of the City was presented records the resolution of the City Council in the following terms :—

"That the members of this Council desire to express their opinion that the powers accorded to them by law for the recognition of eminent services would be fittingly exercised by conferring upon Mrs. Enriqueta Augustina Rylands the freedom of the City—the highest distinction which it is their privilege to bestow. Mrs. Rylands is distinguished and honoured by the community for the generous manner in which she has founded and dedicated to the public, and enshrined in a beautiful and costly edifice, a noble library for the promotion of study and the pursuit of learning ; for the large collection of books formed by herself, and especially for its enrichment by the addition of the celebrated Althorp Library, purchased from Earl Spencer ; for the exceptional service thus rendered by preventing this invaluable library from being removed from England ; for the important facilities she has thus afforded to the student of bibliographical research by bringing together so many of the rarest and most precious of literary treasures

10. ONE OF THE STAFF COMMON ROOMS

11. A SECTION OF ONE OF THE FOUR FLOORS OF THE STEEL-STACK

as will make Manchester a place of pilgrimage to scholars throughout the world; for the enlightened wisdom by which this valuable property will be invested in trustees, its government entrusted to chosen representatives, and its management based on broad and liberal principles. The Council, in recognition of these and other eminent services, do hereby, in pursuance of the Honorary Freedom of Boroughs Act, 1885, confer upon Mrs. Enriqueta Augustina Rylands, the honorary freedom of the City of Manchester, and hereby admit her to the honorary freedom of the City of Manchester accordingly.'

The silver casket enclosing the scroll, which was handed to Mrs. Rylands on the occasion of her admission to the freedom of the City, has quite recently been presented to the Governors for preservation in the library in perpetuity, through the intervention of the present Lord Mayor (Alderman William Kay), by the family of the late Mr. Stephen Joseph Tennant, the brother of Mrs. Rylands, into whose possession it passed at the death of his sister.

Mrs. Rylands' liberality was not by any means confined to the library. When the Whitworth Hall was built for the Owens College, by the late Chancellor Copley Christie, Mrs. Rylands crowned the benefaction by the gift of a fine organ, which was ready for use, when the Prince and Princess of Wales performed the opening ceremony on the 12th of March, 1902. It should be mentioned that the celebration of the jubilee of the Owens College had been deferred for a year until the building of the hall was finished.

On the day following the opening ceremony a number of honorary degrees were conferred to mark the celebration of the Jubilee, when Mrs. Rylands received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters, at the hands of the Chancellor of the University, in the person of Earl Spencer, whose library she had been the means of bestowing on Manchester.

Mrs. Rylands was presented to the Chancellor in the following terms of appreciation, by the late Professor A. S. Wilkins:—

"I present Mrs. Rylands, who, with splendid munificence, has gathered in Manchester a magnificent library as the most fitting memorial for one who cared much that the best books should be accessible to all, who laid down the rules for its government with far-sighted sagacity, who endowed it lavishly, and who is never weary of adding to its treasures with a watchful and discriminating generosity."

Mrs. Rylands' interest in the library did not end with the erection and equipment of the building. She endowed it with an annual income for its maintenance and extension, and again and again when rare and costly books or collections of books came into the market, which were beyond the reach of the ordinary income of the library to secure, she readily and generously found the money for their purchase if only she could be assured that the usefulness of the library would be enhanced by their possession. Never has the philosophy of large giving had a better illustration.

In the month of August, 1901, another instance of the munificence of the founder, and of her continued interest in the library was made public, with the announcement that the celebrated collection of illuminated and other manuscripts belonging to the Earl of Crawford, numbering upwards of six thousand items, had been acquired for a sum little less than that paid for the Althorp collection. The purchase came as a great surprise to all but a very few, for the negotiations had been conducted in that quiet, unostentatious manner which was characteristic of all Mrs. Rylands' actions.

The importance of this addition to the library's resources cannot be overestimated, since it gives to it a position with regard to Oriental and Western manuscripts similar to that which it previously occupied in respect of early printed books through the possession of the "Althorp Library," for just as the distinguishing mark of that collection was to be found in the early printed books, so the manuscripts formed the distinguishing mark of the "Bibliotheca Lindesiana".

In order that the value and contents of the collection should be brought to the knowledge of scholars in all parts of the world, Mrs. Rylands generously undertook to defray the cost of cataloguing it in a manner commensurate with its importance. To this end arrangements were entered into with a number of leading scholars to deal with manuscripts in their own special line of research, and, although several of these catalogues have since appeared, and others may be expected shortly, it is to be regretted that Mrs. Rylands did not live to see this part of her scheme carried through.

From first to last Mrs. Rylands' interest in the library was unflagging. Until within a few weeks of her death she was making purchases of manuscripts and books, and one of her last cares was to provide accommodation for the rapid extension of the library, so that the work

12. LIBRARIAN'S WORK-ROOM

13. THE EARLY PRINTED BOOK ROOM

should in no wise be hampered for want of space. A fine site adjoining the library had been acquired, and it was her intention, had she lived, to erect thereon a store building that would provide accommodation for at least half a million volumes. Unfortunately death intervened before the arrangements in pursuance of her intentions could be completed.

There are those who believe that institutions of this character grow of themselves when once started. This is a mistaken idea which, fortunately, was not shared by Mrs. Rylands. She realised very fully that they do not grow of themselves, that they must be made to grow, and that money is the only fertiliser that is of any use.

Mrs. Rylands' death occurred on the 4th of February, 1908, to the irreparable loss not only of the institution which she had founded, but to the entire city of Manchester.

In her will Mrs. Rylands made additional provision for the upkeep and development of the library, which has enabled the trustees and governors to administer it in a manner worthy of the lofty ideals of the founder.

In addition to the monetary bequests, Mrs. Rylands bequeathed to the library, all books, manuscripts, and engravings in her residence at Longford Hall, numbering several thousand volumes, many of which were of great importance. These she had gathered round her during the last twenty years of her life not alone for her own pleasure, but with a view to the ultimate enrichment of the library.

Hitherto, our remarks, of necessity, have been confined almost exclusively to Mrs. Rylands' relations to the library, which she looked upon with pardonable pride as her great achievement. But her munificence did not end there, nor with her gifts to numerous other public objects in which she took a keen interest. The full extent of her benefactions will probably never be known. She was naturally reserved, and delighted to do good by stealth, but those who take an active part in charitable work in Manchester could testify to her unfailing readiness to assist any good cause of which she approved. She did not simply give money out of her great wealth, she also gave care, thought, and attention to all that she was interested in.

Personally, Mrs. Rylands was little known, she shrank from publicity, she kept no diary, and left only a few scattered notes which could be employed as aids to memory, but whatever material there

was in writing at the time of her death was committed to the flames by her express direction. She was a woman of very marked ability and of great determination, and those who had the privilege of assisting her in any of her numerous and absorbing interests can testify to her wonderful business capacity, and to her mastery of detail. She possessed truly, and in a remarkable degree "the genius of taking pains".

The property was vested in a body of nine trustees, to hold office continuously, with power to fill any vacancies, as they should occur, by the vote of the surviving members of the Trust; whilst the administration of the library was entrusted to a council of eighteen governors, consisting of ten representatives of the University and City of Manchester, and certain other bodies which are not local in character, and eight co-opted governors appointed by the council under regulations prescribed in the constitution.

Of the nine trustees originally appointed by Mrs. Rylands only two survive: Sir Adolphus William Ward, the Master of Peterhouse, Cambridge, and Sir Evan Spicer, J.P. The present board consists of the two continuing trustees, and the following members: Gerard N. Ford, Esq., J.P., Sir Alfred Hopkinson, K.C., W. Arnold Linnell, Esq., Sir Thomas T. Shann, J.P., The Marquis of Hartington, The Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, P.C., and Sir Henry A. Miers, F.R.S.

Of the eighteen governors forming the first council, who were also appointed by Mrs. Rylands, only two survive: Professor T. F. Tout, F.B.A., and Professor A. S. Peake, D.D. The present council is constituted as follows: Sir Henry A. Miers, F.R.S. (Chairman), Sir Thomas T. Shann, J.P. (Hon. Treasurer), Gerard N. Ford, Esq., J.P. (Hon. Secretary), Professor C. H. Herford, Litt.D., Professor L. E. Kastner, W. Marsden, Esq., J.P., Henry Plummer, Esq., J.P., Sir William Stephens, J.P., Professor T. F. Tout, F.B.A., Professor Charles E. Vaughan, Litt.D., who are representative governors, and the following co-opted members: the Right Rev. Bishop E. Knox, D.D., the Rev. George Jackson, D.D., the Rev. R. Mackintosh, D.D., the Rev. J. T. Marshall, D.D., Professor A. S. Peake, D.D., Sir Alexander Porter, J.P., the Rev. F. J. Powicke, Ph.D., and the Rev. J. E. Roberts, D.D.

The first Chairman of the Council was William Linnell, Esq., one of the original Trustees and a Life-Governor, who had been

closely associated with Mrs. Rylands from the inception of her scheme, and rendered very valuable assistance in connection with the building and organisation of the library down to the time of his death, which took place in 1901. He was succeeded by Alderman Harry Rawson from 1901 to 1903; by Sir Alfred Hopkinson, K.C., from 1903 to 1918; by Sir George W. Macalpine, J.P., from 1918 to 1920; and by Sir Henry A. Miers, F.R.S., since 1920.

The first occupant of the office of Honorary Treasurer was Stephen Joseph Tennant, Esq., the brother of Mrs. Rylands, who, also, from the inception of the scheme was closely associated with his sister, and served the library with untiring devotion until within a few days of his death, which occurred in 1914. He was succeeded by the present Treasurer, Sir Thomas Thornhill Shann, J.P.

The Rev. J. W. Kiddle, one of the Trustees and Governors, was the first Honorary Secretary, an office which he continued to fill until his death in 1911, when he was succeeded by Gerard N. Ford, Esq., J.P.

In addition to the above-named members of the Trust and Council, the following have been actively associated with the administration of the library, either as Trustees or Governors, during the respective periods covered by the years indicated within the brackets after their names: The Rev. Principal W. F. Adeney, D.D. (Governor, 1904-1913); Sir William H. Bailey (Governor, 1899-1913); the Rev. C. L. Bedale (Governor, 1917-1919); William Carnelley, Esq. (Trustee and Governor, 1899-1919); Lord Cozens-Hardy of Letheringsett (Trustee, 1899-1920); Professor T. W. Rhys Davids, LL.D., etc. (Governor, 1909-1915); J. Arnold Green, Esq. (Governor, 1899-1901); the Rev. Samuel Gosnell Green, D.D. (Trustee, 1899-1905); H. A. Heywood, Esq. (Governor, 1919); the Right Rev. Bishop E. L. Hicks, D.D. (Governor, 1905-1910); the Rev. Silvester Horne (Trustee, 1899-1914); Professor Victor Kastner (Governor, 1907-1909); John E. King, Esq. (Governor, 1899-1903); the Rev. A. Mackennal, D.D. (Governor, 1899-1904); the Rev. Alexander Maclaren, D.D. (Governor, 1899-1910); Professor James Hope Moulton, Litt.D., etc. (Governor, 1904-1917); J. Lewis Paton, Esq. (Governor, 1913-1917); the Rev. Marshall Randles, D.D. (Governor, 1899-1904); Reuben Spencer, Esq. (Trustee, 1899-1901); Professor J. Strachan, Litt.D., etc.

(Governor, 1903-1907); the Rev. A. W. H. Streuli (Governor, 1899-1913); Alderman Joseph Thompson, LL.D. (Governor, 1899-1909); Sir William Vaudrey, J.P. (Governor, 1899-1911); the Right Rev. Bishop J. E. H. Welldon, D.D. (Governor, 1910-1918); Professor A. S. Wilkins, Litt.D., etc. (Governor, 1899-1905); the Venerable Archdeacon James Wilson, D.D. (Governor, 1899-1905).

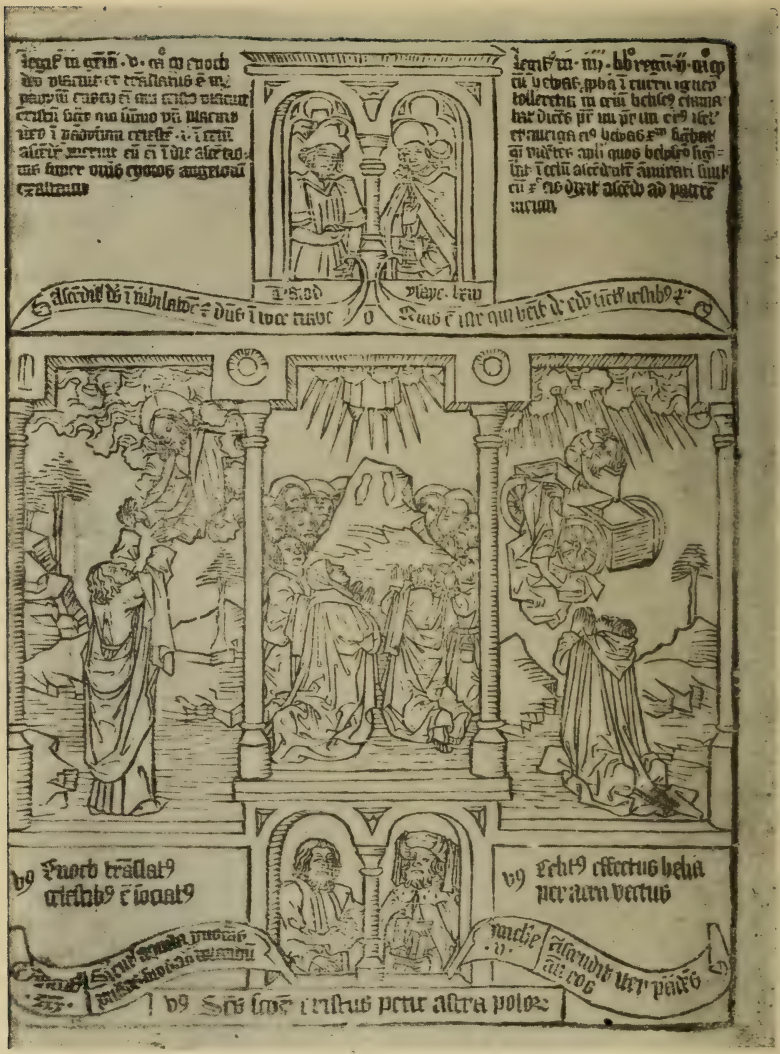
The Corporation of Manchester have the right to appoint two of the representative governors, but the library is in nowise subject to the control of the Municipality, nor does it derive any financial support from the city; its income is derived from endowments provided by the founder, and it may therefore be regarded as a national trust. The conditions under which permission to read therein is granted are exactly similar to those which obtain at the British Museum. Indeed, the aim of the governors, from the very outset, has been to build up a reference and research library for the North of England on the lines of the great national institution at Bloomsbury.

It is gratifying therefore to be able to report that one of the outstanding features of the use made of the library during the period covered by this review is the large amount of original research which has been conducted by students, not only from the home universities, but also by scholars from all parts of the world.

Throughout the twenty-one years of its activities the duty of the library to scholarship has been recognised, and the governors, with a liberal interpretation of their responsibility to learning, have realised that, whilst it is their primary duty carefully to preserve the books and manuscripts entrusted to their care, yet the real importance of such a collection rests not alone upon the number or the rarity of the works of which it is composed, but upon the use which is made of them. Only in this way can the library be worthy of its history.

It was inevitable that the possession of so great an inheritance of literary treasures should cause the library to become a place of pilgrimage for those who have given themselves to the service of learning, as well as for the lovers of rare books. From the first, however, it has been the steadfast aim of the governors to make it an efficient working library for students, and, with this end in view, they have developed the collections by the provision of the best literature in the various departments of knowledge which comes within the scope of the library, so as to excite and diffuse a love of learning, and at the

14. THE "ST. CHRISTOPHER" BLOCK-PRINT, 1423



15. A PAGE OF THE "BIBLIA PAUPERUM"
Circa 1450

same time assist the original investigations and efforts of those who might devote themselves to the pursuit of some special branch of study.

This design has been consistently followed without any material change since the day of its inauguration. It has remained only to build up the collections along lines which have already been fruitful of good results, and as a consequence the library has quickly and almost imperceptibly developed into an admirable laboratory for historical and literary investigation.

In the early years it was not surprising to find that there were many lacunæ in the library's collections, but every effort has been employed gradually to reduce their number, and with gratifying success. In this respect we have gratefully to acknowledge the valuable services rendered by readers, who, from time to time, have pointed out the library's lack of important authorities in their special lines of research. Suggestion of this or of any kind, which tend to the improvement of the library, have always been both invited and welcomed, and have received prompt and sympathetic attention.

It may not be out of place at this point briefly to refer to the help and guidance which the officials are constantly called upon to render, not only by personal attention in the library itself, but also in response to written requests from all parts of the world. Such services cannot be reduced to any reliable statistical statement, but they bear fruit in the grateful acknowledgments of indebtedness to the library, which constantly find expression in the foot-notes and prefaces to published works, and in presentation copies of the works containing such acknowledgments.

The governors also considered it desirable to give to the general public, as well as to those who had not yet discovered the delights and advantages of literary study, or who had only a casual acquaintance with books, opportunities for forming some idea of the scope and character of the collections and of the possibilities of usefulness, which the library offered.

Therefore, with the object of providing the means for fostering such interest, and of making the resources of the library better known, provision was made in the planning and equipment of the building for exhibitions and public lectures, by the installation of ten exhibition cases in the main library, which is situated on the first floor, and of

two lecture halls on the ground floor, the larger intended for public lectures, the smaller for lecture demonstrations.

EXHIBITIONS.

One of the first steps to be taken in this endeavour to popularise the library, in the best sense of that term, was by the arrangement of exhibitions, which have since come to be regarded as one of the permanent features of the library's work. They are designed to reveal to visitors something of the character of the collections which have made the library famous in the world of letters, and which at the same time have helped to make Manchester a centre of attraction for scholars from all parts of the world.

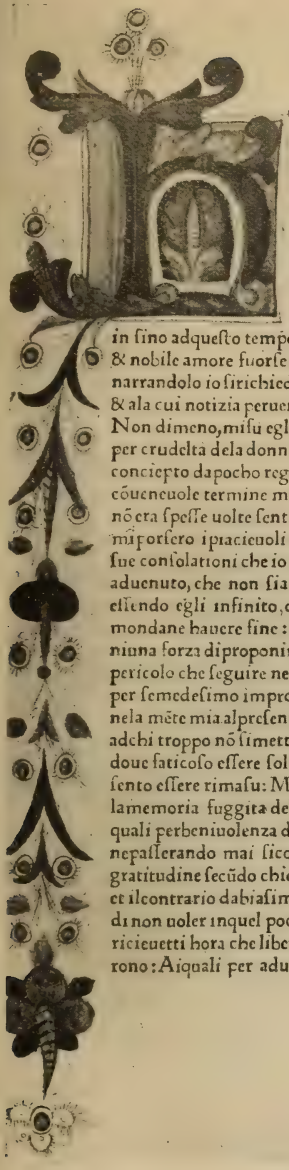
Among the subjects with which these exhibitions have dealt, the following may be mentioned: "The Art and Craft of the Scribes and Illuminators of the Middle Ages"; "The Beginnings of Books"; "The History of the Transmission of the Bible from the Earliest Times"; "Books and Broadsides illustrating the History of Printing"; "Original Editions of the Works of John Milton"; "Manuscripts and Printed Editions of the Works of Dante Alighieri"; "Original Editions of the Principal English Classics"; "Mediæval Manuscripts and Jewelled Book Covers"; and "The Works of Shakespeare, his Sources, and the Writings of his Principal Contemporaries".

In connection with each exhibition it has been customary to issue a descriptive hand-book, which usually contains an historical introduction to the subject dealt with, a list of the principal works bearing upon it which may be consulted in the library, and facsimiles of title-pages or characteristic pages, of some of the most famous of the exhibits. These hand-books, which often extend to upwards of a hundred pages, are prepared with the greatest possible care, and are calculated to be of permanent value to students.

If we may judge from the large number of people, including groups of students, who, with evident enjoyment and avowed benefit, have visited these exhibitions, as well as from the appreciative notices which have appeared in the press, the object which we had in view has been abundantly realised.

PUBLIC LECTURES.

Interest in the library has also been fostered by means of public lectures. The first series was arranged in 1901, and dealt exclusively with the history and scope of the institution. This was followed in the succeeding session by a series on "Books



VMANA.COSA.E.LHAVER.
COMPASSIONE.AGLAFFLICTI.
ecome che adciaſcuna pſõa ſtia bene:adcoloro maſſimamente e richeſto: liquali gia hanno diconforto hauuto miſtieri.& hánolo trouato inalcuno,fra iquali ſe alcuno mai nhebbe:ogli fu caro o gia nericiuette piaciere:Io ſono uno di quelli,pcio che dala mia prima giouanezza in ſino adqueſto tempo: oltra modo eſſendo ſtato acceſo da altiſſimo & nobile amore fuorſe piu aſſai chelamia baſſa cõditione nõ parebbe, narrandolo io ſirichiedeſſe:quãtunque appo coloro,che diſereti ci. no & ala cui notizia peruenne. Io nefuſſi lodato & damolto piu reputato: Non dimeno,miſu egli digrandiſſima faticha aſſoffrire : certe non per crudelta dela donna amata : ma perſuperchio amore nela mente concepto dapocho regolato appetito ilqual,pcio animo regolato,o cõueneuole termine milaſcia cõtento ſtare piu dinoia, che dibiſogno nõ era ſpeſſe uolte ſentire miſaceua . Nela qual noia,tãto refriggierio miporſero ipiacieuoli ragionamenti dalcuno amico & le dilecteuoli ſue conſolationi che io porto fermiſſima oppinione per quello eſſere aduenuto, che non ſia morto. Ma ſicome adcolui piacque ilquale eſſendo egli infinito,diede perlegge inconmutabile adtutte lecoſe mondane hauere fine : Ilmio amore oltre adognaltro feruẽte, è ilquale niuna forza diproponimento o diconſeglio,o diuergogna euidente,o pericolo che ſeguire ne poteſſe haueua poſſuto ne rõpere nepieghare per ſemedeſimo improceſſo ditempo ſidiminui inguiſa,cheſolo diſe nela mẽte mia alpreſente ma laſciato quelpiacere,che uſato diporgiere adchi troppo nõ ſimetteſſe ne ſuoi piu cupi pelaghi nauicãdo: perche doue faticoſo eſſere ſoleua ogni affanno, toglendomi dilecteuole mi ſento eſſere rimaſu: Ma quantuque cieſſata ſia lapena,non pcio e lamemoria fuggita debeneficii gia recieuoti datimi dacholoro : daquali perbeniuolenza daloro ad me portata erano graui lemie fatiche nepaſſerando mai ſicomio credo ſenon permorte : Et pcio,chela gratitudine ſecũdo chio credo fra laltre uirtu è ſõmamẽte dacõmẽdar, et ilcontrario dabiaſimare per non parer ingrato,o mecho ſteſſo,ppoſto di non noler inquel pocho che per me ſipuo incambio dicio,cheio ricieuetti hora che libero dire mipoſſo:& ſe nõ acoloro cheme aiutarono : Aiquali per aduentura perlor ſenno o per laloro buona uenuta

16. A PAGE OF THE "VALDARFER BOCCACCIO," 1471

O Glorious Jhesu. O mekest Jhesu. O moost swettest Jhesu/ I praye the/ that I may haue trewe confession/ contracion/ and satisfaction or I dye/ And that I maye see and receyue thy holy body god & man Sauyour of alle mankynde Cryst Jhesu Withoute synne/ And that thou wylt my lord god foryeue me alle my synnes for thy gloryous woundes & passion/ And that I may ende my lyf in the trewe feythe of alle holy chirche/ And in parfyght loue and charyte with my euen crysten as thy creature/ And I commende my sowle in to thy holy handes thurgh the gloryous helpe of thy blessyd moder of mercy oure lady saynt Mary / and alle the holy companye of heuen Amen

¶ The holy body of Cryst Jhesu be my saluacion of body and soule Amen/ The Gloryous bloody of Cryst Jhesu brynge my soule and body in to the euerlastynge blysse Amen / I crye god mercy / I crye god mercy/ I crye god mercy/ Welcome my maker/ Welcome my redemer/ Welcome my sauyour/ I crye the mercy with herte contryte of my grete vnkyndenesse that I haue had vnto the/

O The moost swettest spouse of my soule Cryste Jhesu desyryng hertely euermore for to be with the in mynde and wyll/ And to lete none erthely thynge be soo nyhe myn hert as thow Cryste Jhesu/ And that I drede not for to deye for to goo to the Cryst Jhesu/ And that I may euermore saye vnto the with a gladde chere/ My lord My god my souerayne sauyour Cryst Jhesu / I bysecke the hertely/ take me synner vnto thy grete mercy and grace/ For I loue the with al my herte/ with all my mynde/ with alle my myght/ And no thynge soo moche in erth nor aboue erthe/ as I doo the my swete lord Cryst Jhesu / And for that I haue not louedy the/ and worshippedy the/ aboue al thyng as my lord/ My god/ and my saueour/ Cryst Jhesu/ I bysecke the with mekenesse and herte contryte / of mercy and of forgeuenesse of my grete vnkyndenesse/ for the grete loue that thou shewdest for me and al mankynde/ what tyme thou offredest thy gloryous body god and man vnto the Crosse/ ther to be crucyfyedy and wounded And vnto thy gloryous herte a sharp spere/ ther rennyng out plentyuously bloody and water for the redempcion and saluacion of me and al mankynde / And thus hauynge remembraunce stedfastly in my herte of the my sauyour Cryste Jhesu / I doubte not / but thou wylt be ful nyhe me/ and comforte me bothe bodyly and goostly with thy gloryous presence/ And at the last brynge me vnto thy euerlastynge blysse/ the whiche shalle neuer haue ende/ Amen/

17. "DEATH-BED PRAYERS"

Printed by William Caxton [1483]

and their Makers". Such was the success of these experiments that a more ambitious scheme was entered upon, and in each of the subsequent seventeen years a syllabus has been arranged, which has included the names of scholars of the highest eminence, who have gladly responded to the invitation extended to them to lecture upon the subjects of which they are the recognised authorities. In the course of these lectures new theories and discoveries have often been advanced, which were calculated to impart a fresh stimulus to study in their respective fields of research. The lecture-room has generally been filled to overflowing, with an audience which was at once responsive and inspiring, and on numerous occasions large numbers have been unable to gain admission.

The object of these lectures, as already stated, is to stimulate interest in the library and in the higher branches of literature, and each lecture is made the occasion for reminding the audience of this fact by directing attention to the available sources of information upon the subject dealt with.

DEMONSTRATIONS TO STUDENTS AND CRAFTSMEN.

Another department of work which has met with encouraging success is represented by the bibliographical and other demonstrations for organised parties of students from the University, the training colleges, the technical and secondary schools, and other similar institutions in Manchester and the neighbouring towns.

As a rule the demonstration deals with the author or subject, sometimes a period of history or of literature, which has been the theme of class study during the term. Such subjects as "The Beginnings of Literature," "The Beginnings of Printing," "The Books of the Middle Ages," "The Revival of Learning," "The Early Settlement of America," "The Bible before Printing," "The Printed English Bible," "Aldus," "Chaucer," "Wiclif," "Shakespeare," "Dante," and "Milton" have each in turn been dealt with in this manner.

These parties, which consist of from twenty-five to a hundred students, have been accommodated in one of the lecture rooms, around tables upon which the manuscript and other material for the demonstration had been arranged.

Experience has taught us that nothing will help a student to appreciate the reality underlying the great names of literature or history

like a personal introduction to the original editions of their works, or to the most authoritative material bearing upon the subject. In dealing with ancient history, for example, to be able to show a group of tablets, consisting of letters of the time of Ḥammurabi or Abraham, a proclamation of Nebuchadnezzar, the writing tablets of one of the Roman Consuls, or a papyrus document written during the lifetime of our Lord, is to make history live. In the case of Shakespeare, to be able to show copies of the actual editions of the books to which Shakespeare must have had access, and which he drew upon in the writing of his plays, or of the original editions of his own works, is to impart a sense of personal acquaintance with, or a vivid impression of the writer, which not only intensifies the student's love for the particular subject, but stimulates an interest in the many valuable collections which the library possesses, and in that way lays a foundation for future study.

On several occasions, at the request of the Head Teachers' Association and the Teachers' Guild, model demonstrations of a similar character have been given to large parties of teachers, who have expressed appreciation of this method of utilising the resources of the library, opening out, as it does, vistas of usefulness not hitherto contemplated by them.

Groups of craftsmen connected with the printing, book-binding, and other trade societies, have also had lecture demonstrations arranged for them upon such subjects as writing, printing, book-illustration, and book-binding, which, to judge from their expressions of grateful appreciation, have enabled them to carry away a new conception of the dignity and possibilities of the particular craft to which they belonged.

From the educational point of view, the library has achieved a gratifying measure of success by means of these exhibitions, lectures, and demonstrations, since many of the schools and colleges have been avowedly aided in their work, and have been drawn into closer relationship with the institution. Not only so, but in a large number of cases which have been brought to our knowledge, the interest of the casual visitor has also ripened into a desire to become a regular reader, with the avowed object of following up lines of study suggested to them in the course of some lecture or demonstration.

In the year 1910 the governors wisely decided to instal a photographic studio with a complete and up-to-date equipment of apparatus,

and their action has been abundantly justified by the results already obtained. This new department is fraught with possibilities of world-wide benefit, for it has made it possible to render to scholars, both at home and abroad, most valuable assistance, by furnishing them with photographed facsimiles of pages from some of the rarer printed books and manuscripts. Again and again, in the case of requests for transcripts and collations of passages from some important text in the possession of the library, it has been found possible, at small cost, to provide a photograph or a rotograph of the passage required, which was at once more trustworthy and more acceptable than the best hand-made transcript could possibly be.

PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIO.

With the object of increasing the facilities for advanced study which the library offers, every attention has been paid to the improvement of the equipment, especially in the gallery alcoves, which are now reserved for students who are conducting special research. This accommodation is much coveted by readers, in consequence of the greater freedom from distraction which it offers, and also because each alcove is furnished with a small standing-press, in which they may keep out, from day to day, the works which they require for continuous study. These seats are allotted to students in the order of their application, and, as a rule, for the whole of the session. Indeed, such has been the increasing demand for them during the last few years, that invariably every seat has been allotted before the session opens. This constant solicitude on the part of the governors for the comfort of readers has evoked expressions of unqualified gratitude and appreciation.

EQUIPMENT.

Throughout the period covered by the war the service of the library was maintained, as nearly as possible, at the regular level of its efficiency, in spite of the absence of eleven members of the staff who enlisted in H.M. Forces, in one capacity or another, in response to the call of King and Country. This continuance of the service was rendered possible by the loyal and untiring devotion of those officials who, from one cause or another, were exempt from active military duties.

THE LIBRARY DURING THE WAR.

It is true that several important pieces of work, which were in contemplation at the outbreak of war, had to be set aside in consequence of the absence of so large a proportion of the staff, but that was not

to be wondered at, for plans conceived in time of peace naturally change and shrink under the strain and stress of war.

Of the members of the staff already referred to as having been absent on active service, ten returned to duty, glad to exchange life in the army for the peaceful atmosphere of the library, but we have to deplore the loss of Captain O. J. Sutton, M.C., whose death deprives the library of a trustworthy and valued assistant, who had been associated with the institution from the time of its inauguration until he was called up for active service in August, 1914.

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE LOUVAIN LIBRARY.

One piece of war-work, to which the governors may point with pardonable pride, is represented by the assistance which the library has been able to render to the authorities of the University of Louvain in their heavy task of making good the ruin wrought by the war, by providing them with the nucleus of a new library to replace the famous collection of books and manuscripts which had been so ruthlessly destroyed by the Germans in August, 1914.

Within four months of the perpetration of that wanton act, the new library was already rising, phœnix-like, out of the ruins of the old one, as a result of the scheme of replacement which grew out of the desire on the part of the governors to give some practical expression to their deep feelings of sympathy with the authorities of Louvain. This they felt could best be accomplished by means of a gift of books, and forthwith the offer of an initial group of 200 volumes was made.

The offer was gratefully accepted, and acknowledged as the first contribution which had been effectually made to the future library of Louvain, but as Belgium was at that time in the occupation of the Germans, and the members of the University were scattered and in exile, the governors were requested to house their gift until such time as the country had been freed from the presence of the invaders, and the University had been repatriated.

Having gladly undertaken this service, it occurred to the governors that there must be many other libraries and learned institutions, as well as private individuals, who would welcome the opportunity of sharing in such a project, and, with a view of inviting their co-operation, an announcement was made in the subsequent issue of this BULLETIN (which appeared in April, 1915) of our willingness to be responsible for the custody of any suitable works which might be entrusted to us

for the purpose. We also announced our intention of preparing a register of the various contributors, with an exact description of their gifts, for presentation with the books when the appropriate time should arrive, to serve as a permanent record of this united effort to repair at least some of the damage which had been wrought by the war.

Our appeal met with an immediate and generous response, which has continued unabated throughout the six years that have elapsed since it was first made public. One of the most pleasing features of the response has been that all classes of the community, not only in this country, but in many parts of the English-speaking world, as well as in several of the allied and neutral countries, have participated in it. Many of the gifts may be said to partake of the sanctity of a sacrifice, since they consist of treasured possessions which had been acquired by struggling students through the exercise of economy and self-denial.

Early in 1916 a national committee was formed, upon the initiative of the President and Secretary of the British Academy, to co-operate with the governors in the development of the scheme which they had already inaugurated. This resulted in a new impulse being given to the movement.

Reports of progress, coupled with new appeals for help, have been made from time to time in the pages of the BULLETIN, with encouraging results. In one of our appeals we explained that, whilst keeping in view the general character of the library which we had in contemplation, we were at the same time anxious that it should be thoroughly representative of English scholarship, in other words that its equipment should include the necessary materials for research on the history, language, and literature of the country, together with the contributions which British scholars have made to other departments of learning. The attainment of that object has been made possible by the ready and generous co-operation of many of the learned societies, universities, university presses, and leading publishers.

In this connection it may not be out of place to quote a few sentences from a letter received in April last, from Professor A. van Hoonacker, in which he refers to the character of the British contribution in the following terms :—

". . . The restoration of our library is progressing splendidly, and it is gratifying to acknowledge for us that the most valuable contributions

by far, are those of our English friends. Our debt of gratitude towards the Rylands Library is very great indeed and can never be forgotten. Our library will be a historical monument in a special way : it is going to be for its best part an English library."

Throughout the six years during which the scheme has been in operation, gifts of books, in large or in small consignments, have been reaching us almost daily. In order to obviate the risk of having collections of volumes dumped upon us indiscriminately, we have been careful to invite prospective donors to send to us, in the first instance, lists of the works they desired to offer, so that we might have the opportunity of respectfully declining anything deemed to be unsuitable, or of which a copy had already been contributed by some other donor. In this way we were able to secure for our friends at Louvain a really live collection of books, embracing all departments of knowledge.

The work of receiving, rebinding or repairing such volumes as were not quite sound in their covers, registering, cataloguing, repacking, and making them ready for shipment, involving, as it did, a formidable amount of correspondence, in addition to the other operations referred to, has been at times a serious tax upon the resources of the library, but the work has been regarded as a labour of love by the various members of the staff who have had a hand in it, and, thanks to their loyal and at times self-sacrificing devotion, the project has been carried through to a successful issue, without any serious interference with the regular routine and service of the library.

In January, 1919, not only was Belgium freed from the hateful presence of the invaders, but the University of Louvain was repatriated by the return of the authorities to the devastated scene of their former activities and triumphs, there to assemble their scattered students, to resume their accustomed work, and to take a prominently active part in the immediate business of effecting a transition to a peace footing, as well as in the educational and other schemes of reconstruction which were already taking shape.

If one of the first essentials in the organisation of any University is a library, it was not surprising to learn that, in the absence of this essential part of the University's equipment, the work of the students during the first session of their revival had been seriously hampered. Fortunately this was a deficiency that was remedied during the ensuing session. Temporary premises were secured to serve as library and

reading-room pending the erection of the new library building, and it was our privilege to assist in the furnishing of the shelves with an up-to-date collection of books designed to meet the immediate requirements of staff and students.

As evidence of the success of this scheme it needs only to be stated that, since December, 1919, we have had the pleasure of transferring to Louvain 443 cases, containing no fewer than 35,639 volumes, forming the splendid collection of books which had been gradually accumulated here in the John Rylands Library as the outcome of these combined efforts.

There are still several thousands of volumes either in hand or under promise for the next shipment, so that a total of at least 40,000 volumes is within sight, and for this we renew our thanks to all who have in any way assisted us to realise this successful issue to our scheme.

PUBLICATIONS.

From the beginning of their administration of the library the Governors have recognised the advantages of employing the printing press for disseminating information concerning its varied contents, in order that scholars throughout the world should have the means of ascertaining something of their character and importance.

To this end they have sanctioned the production of a number of catalogues and other publications, many of which have come to be regarded as valuable contributions to the study of the subjects with which they deal.

It should be pointed out, however, that the first publications to be issued in connection with the library, were prepared and printed at the expense of Mrs. Rylands, and were ready for distribution immediately after the inauguration ceremony had taken place.

They consisted of a "Catalogue of the Printed Books and Manuscripts" with which the library commenced its career, forming three volumes in quarto; a special "Catalogue of the Books Printed in England, Scotland, and Ireland, and of Books in English Printed Abroad, to the Year 1640," in one volume uniform with the aforesaid general catalogue; and a sumptuous folio volume furnished with twenty-six collotype facsimiles and many engravings, in which the collection of English Bibles printed between 1525 and 1640 are fully described from the bibliographical standpoint.

The first publication to be issued under the auspices of the governors, and one of the most important and ambitious catalogues hitherto published by the library, was issued in 1909, under the title "Catalogue of the Demotic Papyri in the John Rylands Library," by F. Ll. Griffith, in 3 vols., 4to. It was the first issue of the series of descriptive guides or catalogues to the collection of Oriental and Western manuscripts in the possession of the library, but it was something more than a catalogue, since it included collotype facsimiles of the whole of the documents, with transliterations, complete translations, valuable introductions, very full notes, and a glossary, representing, in the estimation of scholars, the most important contribution to the study of Demotic hitherto published. It was the result of nearly ten years of persistent labour on the part of the editor, who is Reader in Egyptology at the University of Oxford.

This was followed in the same year by the "Catalogue of Coptic Manuscripts in the John Rylands Library," by W. E. Crum, in one volume uniform with the former. In this also, many of the texts were reproduced *in extenso*, and in facsimile. The collection includes a series of private letters considerably older than any hitherto known in Coptic, in addition to many manuscripts of great historical and theological interest.

In 1911 the first volume appeared of the "Catalogue of Greek Papyri . . . " by Dr. A. S. Hunt, which dealt with the literary texts in the collection. These texts were reproduced *in extenso*, some of them in facsimile, and comprise many interesting Biblical, liturgical, and classical papyri, ranging from the third century B.C. to the sixth century A.D. Included are probably the earliest known text of the "Nicene Creed," also one of the earliest known vellum codices, containing a considerable fragment of the "Odyssey," probably of the last decades of the third century A.D., which is included amongst the papyrus documents with which its date and Egyptian provenance naturally associate it.

The second volume of this catalogue appeared in 1915. It dealt with the documents of the Ptolemaic and Roman periods, and was compiled by Dr. A. S. Hunt, J. de M. Johnson, and Victor Martin. The volume runs to upwards of 500 pages, and deals with 400 papyri, consisting mainly of non-literary documents of an official or legal character, as distinguished from the literary documents forming the subject

matter of the first volume. The chief interest centres in the description of the collection of carbonised papyri from Thmûis, which were found, without doubt, in the ruined buildings of Tell Timai, partly excavated by the Egypt Exploration Fund during 1892-93, the chambers of which were found choked by a medley of decayed rolls, and it is interesting to learn that the documents printed in this volume form the largest body yet published from that source. The students of New Testament Greek, and of the history of the period covered by this group of documents, especially in relation to law, economics, and taxation in Egypt during the Roman occupation, will find a mass of useful information, not only in the documents themselves, but in the exhaustive and illuminating notes by which they are accompanied.

In the same year (1915), another interesting quarto volume made its appearance, under the title : "Sumerian tablets from Umma in the John Rylands Library," transcribed, transliterated, and translated by C. L. Bedale. This volume was of considerable interest, since it made available for study the first batch of tablets from this particular site at Umma, which had been acquired for the library some years earlier at the suggestion of the late Professor Hogg and Canon Johns. The work of editing the collection was to have been undertaken by Professor Hogg, but death intervened, and Mr. Bedale, who succeeded him as lecturer in Assyriology at the University of Manchester, very gladly undertook the task with the assistance of Canon Johns, producing a piece of work which reflected credit not only upon the editor, but also upon the library.

In 1909 a series of reprints was commenced which was to be known as the "John Rylands Facsimiles," the object of which was to make more readily accessible to students, by means of faithful facsimile reproductions, some of the most interesting and important of the rarer books and prints which are in the possession of the library, and also to avert the disaster and loss to scholarship involved in the destruction by fire or otherwise of such unique and rare literary treasures, when they have not been multiplied by some such method of reproduction.

The first work to be treated in this way was the "Propositio Johannis Russell, printed by William Caxton, *circa* A.D., 1476," edited with an introduction by Henry Guppy. The library copy of this tract of six printed pages, from which the facsimile was prepared,

was for many years considered to be unique. Since then, however, another copy has been discovered in the library of the Earl of Leicester at Holkham Hall. It consists of the Latin oration, pronounced by the Chancellor of England, on the investiture of Charles, Duke of Burgundy, with the order of the Garter, in February, 1469, and is printed in the second fount of type employed by Caxton.

The second issue appeared in the following year (1910), and consisted of a reproduction of what is believed to be the sole surviving copy of a quaint little rhyming primer, which had the laudable object of instructing the young in the names of trades, professions, ranks, and common objects of daily life in their own tongue. The lists were rhymed, and therefore were easy to commit to memory, and they are pervaded by a certain vein of humour. The title of the volume is as follows: "A Booke in Englysh Metre, of the Great Marchaunt man called 'Dives Pragmaticus' . . . 1563." It was edited with an introduction by Percy E. Newberry; and remarks on the vocabulary and dialect with a glossary, by Henry C. Wyld.

The third issue, which appeared also in 1910, was the reproduction of a tract on the Pestilence, of nine leaves, written by Benedict Kanuti, or Knutsson, Bishop of Västerâs, of which three separate editions are known, but only one copy of each is believed to have survived. There is no indication in any edition of the place of printing, date or name of printer, but they are all printed in one of the first types employed by William de Machlinia, who printed in the city of London at the time when William Caxton was at the most active period of his career at Westminster. The title of the work is as follows: "A Litel Boke the whiche traytied and reherced many gode thinges necessaries for the . . . Pestilence . . . made by the Bishop of Arusiens . . ." [1485]. Edited, with an introduction, by Guthrie Vine.

The fourth publication of this series to make its appearance, in 1915, was a portfolio of facsimiles of eight early engravings, which are preserved in the library, under the title: "Woodcuts of the Fifteenth Century in the John Rylands Library. . . . With an introduction and descriptive notes by Campbell Dodgson." Two of the woodcuts dealt with are of exceptional interest, and have been known and celebrated for a century and a half, but had not hitherto been reproduced in a satisfactory and trustworthy manner by any of

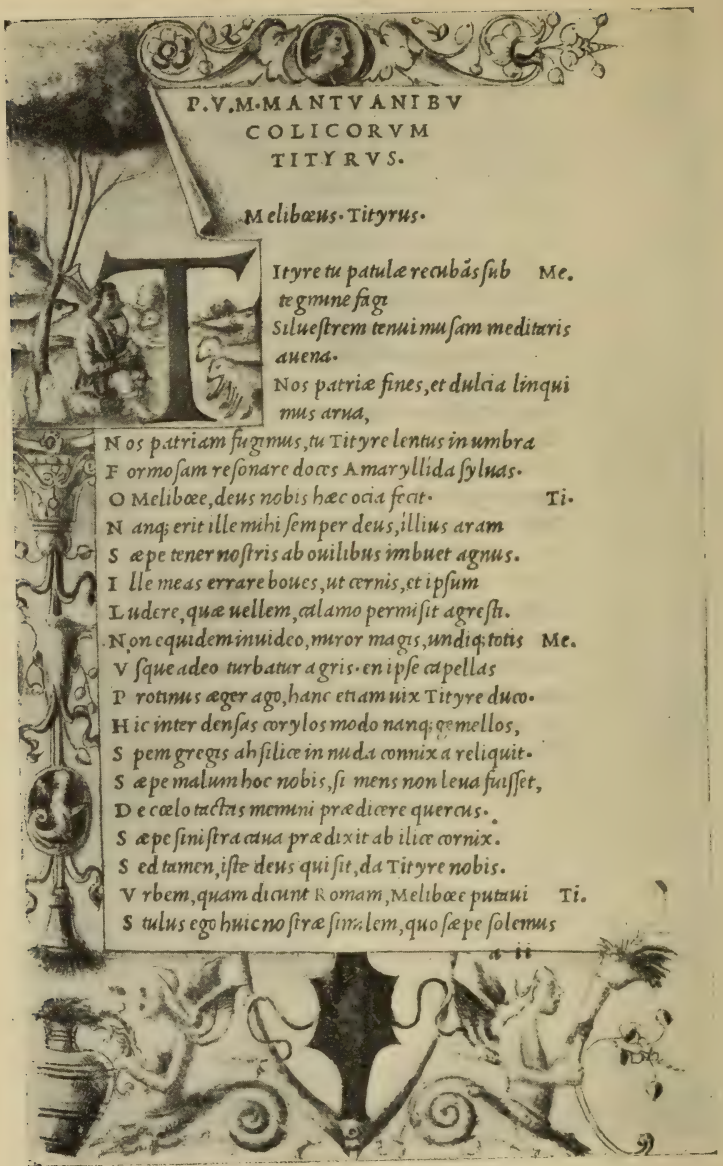
he understode how cham his sone had scorned hym / he cursid hym / And also his sone Canaan / And blessyd Sem and Japhet by cause they couerd hym / Alle the dayes of Noe were ix C.l. yere And thenne deyed / And after his deth his sones deled alle the world bytwene hem Sem had all asye / Cham affryke / And Japhet all Europe / Thus was it departed / Asye is the best part / and is as moche as the other two and that is in the eest / Affryke is the south part and therin is cartage and many ryche contre / ther in ben blew and black men / Cham had that to his parte Affrica / The thyrde parte is Europe whiche is in the north & weste / therin is grece / Rome and Germanye / In Europe regneth now moste the crysten lawe and faith wherin is many ryche Royame And so was the world departed to the iii sones of Noe /

Thus endeth the lyf of Noe

Here foloweth the lyf of abraham /

The sonday called quinquagesme is redde in the chirche thystorye of the holy patriarke Abraham whiche was sone of Thare / This Thare was the tenthe fro Noe in the generacion of sem / Japhet had vii sones / & cham foure sones / Out of the generacion of cham Nembroth cam whiche was a wicked man and cursid in his werkis And began to make the tour of babylone whiche was grete and hye / And at the makyng of this tour god chaunged the langages / in suche wyse that noman understode other / For tofore the byldyng of that tour was but one maner speche in all the world / And ther were made lxxii speches / The tour was grete / it was x myle aboute and v M lxxxiiii steppes of heyght / This Nembroth was the first man that founde mawmetrye & ydolatrye / whiche endured long and yet doth / Thenne I torne agayne to Thare whiche had thre sones / whiche was abram / Nacor and Aram / Of nacor cam Us / bus / and batuel / Of Us cam Job of bus cam balam / And of batuel rebecca and laban / Of aram cam loth and ii doughtres melcha and sara / Now I shal speke of abram of whom our blessid lady come / he weddyd Sara doughter of his broder aram / Abram was euer faithful and trewe / he was lxv yere old whan his fader deyde / For whom he morned tyl our lord comforted hym / whiche said to abram / Abram make the redy & goo out of thy lande and kynrede and also fro the hows of thy fader / and come in to the lande that I shal shewe to the / I shal make the growe in to moche peple / I shal blesse the and shal magnefye thy name and thou shalt be blessyd and I shall blesse them that blesse the & curse them that curse the / And in the shal be blessyd alle the kynredes of the erthe / Abram was lxx yere olde whan he departed from the lond of Aram / And he toke with hym Sara his wyf and loth the sone of his broder and their meyne and his catell and substaunce and Cam in to the londe of Canaan and cam in to the vale of Sichem / in whiche were ylle peple whiche were the peple of Canaan / And our lord saide to Abram I shal gyue to the this lande and to thyn eyres / Thenne Abram did reyse an aulter on whiche he dide sacrefise / And blessid and thankyd our lord / Abram behelde all the londe toward the south / And sawe the beawte therof and fonde hit lyke as our lord told hym / But he

18. A PAGE OF CAXTON'S "GOLDEN LEGEND," 1483



P.V.M.MANTVANI BV
COLICORVM
TITYRVS.

Melibœus. Tityrus.

Tityre tu patulæ recubãs ſub Me.
tegmine fagi
Silueſtrem tenui muſam meditaris
auena.
Nos patriæ fines, et dulcia linqui
mus arua,
Nos patriam fugimus, tu Tityre lentus in umbra
Formoſam reſonare doces Amaryllida ſylnas.
O Melibœe, deus nobis hæc otia fecit. Ti.
Nanq; erit ille mihi ſemper deus, illius aram
Sæpe tener noſtris ab ouilibus imbuet agnus.
Ille meas errare boues, ut cernis, et ipſum
Ludere, quæ uellem, calamo permiſit agreſti.
Non equidem inuideo, miror magis, undiq; totis Me.
Vſque adeo turbatur agris. en ipſe capellas
Protinus æger ago, hanc etiam uix Tityre duco.
Hic inter denſas corylos modo nanq; gemellos,
Spem gregis ah ſilicæ in nuda connixa reliquit.
Sæpe malum hoc nobis, ſi mens non leua fuiſſet,
De cœlo tactas memini prædicere quercus.
Sæpe ſiniſtra caua prædixit ab ilice cornix.
Sed tamen, iſte deus qui ſit, da Tityre nobis.
Vrbem, quam dicunt Romam, Melibœe putaui Ti.
Stulus ego huic noſtræ ſimilem, quo ſæpe ſolemus

a ii

19. A PAGE OF THE "ALDINE VERGIL," 1501

the modern photo-mechanical processes. The two woodcuts referred to represent "St. Christopher" and "The Annunciation," the former of which has acquired a great celebrity by reason of the unquestioned date (1423) which it bears, and which until recently gave it the unchallenged position of the first dated woodcut. These two have been reproduced in the exact colours of the originals as well as in monochrome. The metal dotted print of the "Passion" scene is probably the finest extant example of this description of engraving. Indeed, all the engravings reproduced are said to be unique.

The governors were fortunate in being able to secure the services of Mr. Dodgson, the recognised authority on such matters, in the preparation of the text, since the presence of his name on the title-page gives at once an authority and distinction to the volume.

The first two volumes of the "Catalogue of Latin Manuscripts," compiled by Dr. M. Rhodes James, will, it is hoped, be in circulation by the time these pages are in print. This catalogue was commenced many years ago, in the first place by arrangement with the Earl of Crawford, and later under a new arrangement with Mrs. Rylands, the work on which has been continued, in the intervals of a very busy life by Dr. James. The manuscripts described in this first instalment of the catalogue comprise 183 rolls and codices. They include the small group contained in the Althorp Library, in addition to the Crawford collection, and a certain number of items which have since been acquired from the Phillipps and other sales.

The first volume will contain the catalogue proper, which extends to 400 pages, whilst the second will consist of a thoroughly representative set of about 200 facsimiles of characteristic pages of the manuscripts dealt with.

The first volume of the new and standard edition of the "Odes and Psalms of Solomon," edited by Dr. Rendel Harris and Dr. A. Mingana, appeared in 1916. It furnished for the first time a facsimile of the original Syriac manuscript, now in the possession of the John Rylands Library, accompanied by a retranscribed text, with an attached critical apparatus.

This was followed in 1920 by the second volume, which comprises a new translation of the "Odes" in English versicles, with brief comments by way of elucidation, an exhaustive introduction dealing with the variations of the fragment in the British Museum, with the

original language, the probable epoch of their composition, their unity, the stylistic method of their first writer, the accessory patristic testimonies, a summary of the most important criticisms that have appeared since its first publication in 1909, a complete bibliography of the subject, and a glossary of the text.

In 1917 there were republished in one volume, under the title "The Ascent of Olympus," four interesting articles by Dr. Rendel Harris on the Greek cults, which had appeared at intervals in the BULLETIN. They were republished as nearly as possible in their original form, but with some corrections, expansions, justifications, and additional illustrations.

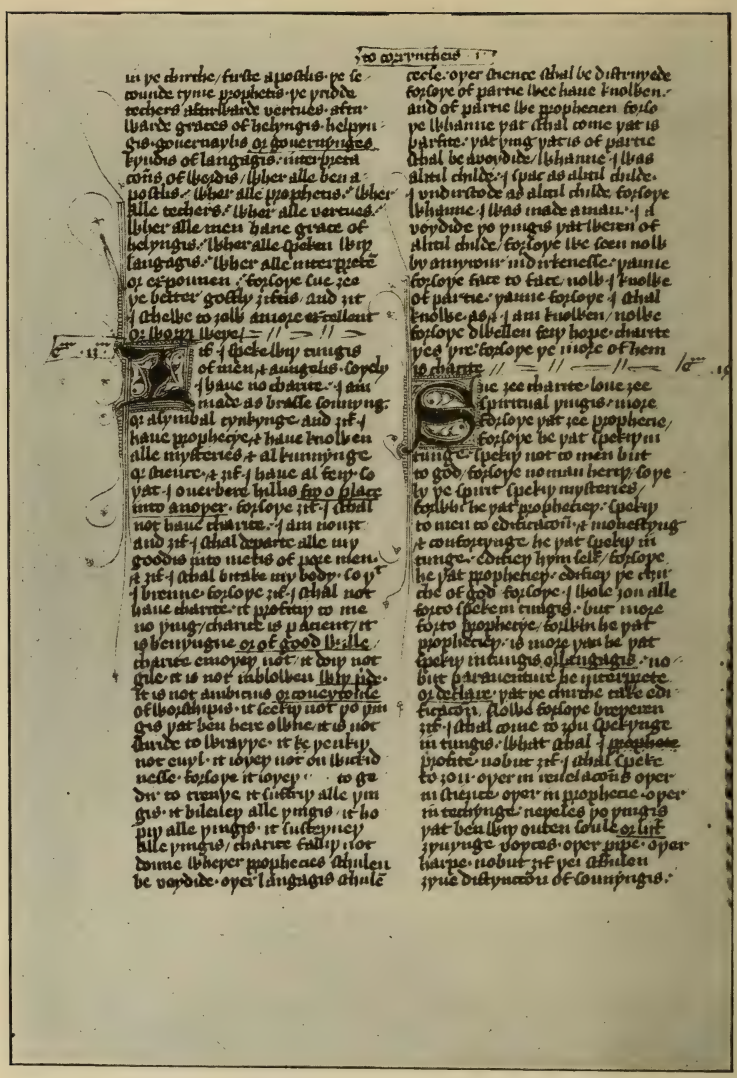
Another volume which attracted great attention and elicited a good deal of healthy criticism at the time of its appearance, in the early part of 1918, consisted of an elaboration of three lectures delivered in the John Rylands Library by Professor G. Elliot Smith, on "The Birth of Aphrodite," "Incense and Libations," and "Dragons and Rain-gods," which make a substantial volume of 250 pages, with numerous illustrations, under the title of "The Evolution of the Dragon".

Two pieces of pioneer work were carried out in the course of 1909, which it was hoped would lead to far-reaching developments.

The first marked a new stage in library administration and co-operation, since it was the first catalogue of its kind to appear in this country or abroad. It consisted of a "Classified Catalogue of Works on Architecture and the Allied Arts in the Principal Libraries of Manchester and Salford," edited conjointly by the Librarian and Sub-Librarian, for the Joint Architectural Committee of the Manchester University and the Manchester Education Committee. It is a volume of 336 pages, in which the main entries are arranged according to the Dewey Decimal system of classification, followed by alphabetical author and subject indexes. By means of this guide, in which the location of the various books is clearly shown, it is possible to determine at a glance whether any particular work is contained in one or other of the twelve principal libraries of the district, and where.

The second of the volumes referred to above, the "Analytical Catalogue of the Contents of the Two Editions of the English Garner," was printed with the object of emphasising the need for analytical treatment of composite works of such a character. It was also intended to demonstrate the practicability of placing the work of one

20. THE BIBLE ROOM



21. A PAGE OF AN EARLY WICLIFITE NEW TESTAMENT MANUSCRIPT, ABOUT 1400

library at the service of other libraries at a small cost, and for that reason it was printed in such a way that the entries could be cut up and utilised for insertion in any cumulative catalogue. It was also felt that it would be of service to the students of the history and literature of our own country, since it provides a key to a storehouse of pamphlets, broadsides, and occasional verses, which are collected in the "Garner," and are practically unobtainable elsewhere.

Other publications have been issued as occasion demanded in the form of descriptive catalogues of the exhibitions which were arranged from time to time in the main library, either to signalise the visit of some learned society, or to mark the commemoration of some anniversary of literary or historical interest. These need not be enumerated here, as they are briefly described in the accompanying list of publications, together with many other miscellaneous items which do not call for special mention.

In the year 1903 the publication of the BULLETIN OF THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY was commenced with the object of providing a medium of communication between the library and its readers, and at the same time of making clear to all lovers of literature the great possibilities which such a library holds out. It was continued by annual issues until 1908, when, by reason of the exigencies of other work, it was found necessary to suspend publication until the more urgent claims of the library had been satisfied.

In October, 1914, publication was resumed in consequence of repeated inquiries for the BULLETIN, which seemed to reveal the real need for some such link between the library and those who were interested in its welfare.

Such was the enthusiastic welcome accorded to it in its revived form, coupled with the generous response on the part of scholars to our appeals for help in the shape of contributions, that we are encouraged to believe our aim to secure for this periodical, by the publication of a regular succession of original articles, a greater permanence as a literary organ, is at least in process of accomplishment. Many of these articles consist of elaborations of the lectures delivered in the library, the importance of which may be gathered by a glance at the accompanying list of reprints.

A certain number of catalogues and other publications are either in the printer's hands, ready for the press, or in active preparation.

The first is " A Catalogue of English Incunabula in the John Rylands Library ". This will be uniform with the catalogues of manuscripts, and will probably extend to 200 pages. It will consist of an accurate bibliographical description of the library's collection of English books printed before 1501, including of course the sixty Caxtons. It will furnish full collations, notes as to provenance, and incidentally, each volume, by means of this treatment, will be made to tell its own story, so often hidden in the prologues, epilogues, and colophons in which the early translators, editors, and printers delighted to indulge. It will be illustrated by facsimiles of pages from some of the rarer items in the collection.

The " Catalogue of Books in the John Rylands Library, printed in Great Britain, and of English Books printed abroad, between 1474 and 1640 " is also ready for the printer, and work upon it will be commenced as soon as ways and means render it practicable. It is calculated that it will form two or three quarto volumes, uniform with the preceding catalogue, and will furnish complete bibliographical descriptions of the rich collection of books with which it deals. It is designed to be of service not only to users of the library, but to bibliographers and students of English literature in general.

In the course of the examination and description of the library's collection of Arabic manuscripts, upon which Dr. Mingana is at present engaged, many of them have been invested with a new importance by reason of the unusual palæographical, and textual interest which they have been found to possess.

One volume of modest appearance and dimensions has proved to be of quite exceptional importance, as may be gleaned from the following notes. It consists of an " Apology of the Muhammadan Faith," by a learned Muhammadan doctor, named Ali b. Rabbān at-Tabari.

The ninth century of the Christian era is marked by numerous apologetic works by Christians and Muhammadans, who lived not far from Baghdad, the capital of the 'Abbaside dynasty of the Eastern caliphate. The names of Abu Nuh, Timotheus the Patriarch, and Ishak al-Kindi, among Christian apologists are known by all interested in Oriental learning. In particular the " Apology of the Christian Faith," by Al-Kindi can hardly be ignored by any educated Muslim, or by any educated Christian living with Muslims. But, as far as we are aware, hitherto no such apology of Islam, of so early a date, and of

Genesis I

Incipit liber bresith quē nos genesim
In principio creauit deus celū et
terram. Terra autem erat inanis et
vacua: et tenebre erāt sup faciē abissi:
et spūs dñi ferebat sup aquas. Dixitq;
deus. Fiat lux. Et facta ē lux. Et vidit
deus lucem q̄ esset bona: et diuisit lucē
a tenebris. appellauitq; lucem diem et
tenebras noctem. Factūq; est vespe et
mane dies unus. Dixit q3 deus. Fiat
firmamentū in medio aquaꝝ: et diui-
dat aquas ab aquis. Et fecit deus fir-
mamentū: diuisitq; aquas que erāt
sub firmamento ab hijs q̄ erant sup
firmamentū. et factū ē ita. Vocauitq;
deus firmamentū celū: et factū ē vespe
et mane dies secūd⁹. Dixit vero deus.
Congregentur aque que sub celo sūt in
locū unū et appareat arida. Et factū ē
ita. Et vocauit deus aridam terram:
congregacionesq; aquaꝝ appellauit
maria. Et vidit deus q̄ esset bonū. et
ait. Germinet terra herbā virentem et
facientē semen: et lignū pomiferū faciēs
fructū iuxta genus suū. cui⁹ semen in
semetipo sit sup terrā. Et factū ē ita. Et
protulit terra herbā virentē et facientē
semē iuxta genus suū: lignūq; faciēs
fructū et hñs unūqdq; sementē scdm
speciē suā. Et vidit deus q̄ esset bonū:
et factū est vespe et mane dies tercius.
Dixitq; autē deus. Fiant luminaria
in firmamēto celi. et diuidāt diem ac
noctem: et sint in signa et tpa et dies et
annos. ut luceāt in firmamēto celi et
illuminēt terrā. Et factū ē ita. Fecitq;
deus duo luminaria magna: luminare
maius ut pesset diei et luminare min⁹
ut pesset nocti et stellas. et posuit eas in
firmamēto celi ut lucerent sup terrā: et
pessent diei ac nocti. et diuiderent lucē
ac tenebras. Et vidit de⁹ q̄ esset bonū:
et factū ē vespe et mane dies quartus.
Dixit etiā de⁹. Producāt aque reptile
anime viuentis et volatile super terrā.
sub firmamēto celi. Creauitq; deus cete
grandia. et omnē aīam viuentē atq;
motabilē quā pduxerāt aque i species
suas. et omne volatile scdm gen⁹ suū.
Et vidit deus q̄ esset bonū. benedixitq;
eis dicens. Crescite et multiplicamini. et
replete aquas maris. auesq; multipli-
centē sup terrā. Et factū ē vespe et mane
dies quintus. Dixit quoq; deus. Pro-
ducat terra aīam viuentē in genē suo.
iumenta et reptilia. et bestias terre scdm
species suas. Factūq; ē ita. Et fecit de⁹
bestias terre iuxta species suas. iumen-
ta et omne reptile terre i genere suo. Et
vidit deus q̄ esset bonū. et ait. Facia-
mus hoīem ad ymaginē et similitudinē
nostrā. et psit piscib3 maris. et vola-
tilib3 celi et bestijs uniūsq; terre. omiq;
reptili qd mouetur ī terra. Et creauit
deus hoīem ad ymaginē et similitudinē
suā. ad ymaginē dei creauit illū. ma-
sculū et feminā creauit eos. Benedixit-
q; illis deus. et ait. Crescite et multiplica-
mini et replete terrā. et subicite eā. et dña-
mini piscib3 maris. et volatilib3 celi.
et vniuersis animātib3 que mouentur
sup terrā. Dixitq; de⁹. Ecce dedi vobis
omnē herbā afferentē semen sup terrā.
et vniūsa ligna que hñt in semetipis
sementē generis sui. ut sint vobis i escā
et cunctis aīantib3 terre. omiq; volucri
celi et vniuersis q̄ mouentur in terra. et ī
quib3 est anima viuēs. ut habeāt ad
vescendū. Et factū est ita. Viditq; deus
cuncta que fecerat. et erāt valde bona.

22. A PAGE OF THE FIRST PRINTED BIBLE

[Mainz, 1456 ?]

23. A PAGE OF LUTHER'S FIRST NEW TESTAMENT
September, 1522

such outstanding importance, by a Muhammadan has been known to exist. It is, therefore, gratifying to be able to announce that a work similar to that of Al-Kindi, has been found in our collection. The work is of first-rate importance to the Muslim, and not of less importance to every Oriental scholar, whilst to anyone interested in theological questions it must have an interest. It follows generally the apology of Al-Kindi, which the author probably intended to refute. The work contains about 130 long Biblical quotations to prove the divine mission of the Arabian prophet. These quotations follow the Syriac version of the Bible, said, in the manuscript, to have been translated by an unknown author called "Marcus the Interpreter". If this Marcus may be identified with the Marcus mentioned in the "Fihrist" (p. 306), and among the writers preceding the time of the Prophet, the book would become of paramount importance for many questions dealing with the redaction of the Kur'an. The Syriac word *Mshabbha*, "the Glorious," wherever occurring in the Old Testament, is translated in Arabic by the word *Muhammad*. It is possible, therefore, that the Prophet having heard this word pronounced, wrote (S. vii, 156, etc.) that his name was found in the Sacred Books of the Christians and the Jews.

The writer is the physician and moralist 'Ali b. Rabbān at-Tabari, who died about A.D. 864. He wrote his book at the request of the Caliph al-Mutawakkil (847-861), at Baghdad in the year A.D. 850. The manuscript is a transcript of the autograph of Tabari himself, and is certainly the most seriously written book on the apologetic theme existing in our days.

The governors contemplate the publication of editions of the Arabic text, and also of an English translation, which have been prepared by Dr. Mingana. The manuscripts are ready for the press, and will be placed in the hands of the printer as soon as conditions are more favourable.

Other catalogues in preparation are—

"Catalogue of Arabic Manuscripts (codices). . . ." By Dr Alphonse Mingana.

"Catalogue of Arabic Papyri. . . ." By Professor Margoliouth.

"Catalogue of Persian Manuscripts. . . ." By Professor A. R. Nicholson.

"Catalogue of Samaritan Manuscripts. . . ." By Dr. A. E. Cowley

"Catalogue of Syriac Manuscripts. . . ." By Dr. Rendel Harris.

"Catalogue of Greek Papyri. . . . Vol. 3. Documents of the Byzantine Period." By Dr. A. S. Hunt.

The following are the publications issued by the Library between 1899 and 1920.

Catalogues of Printed Books and Manuscripts in the Library.

Catalogue of the printed books and manuscripts in the John Rylands Library. 1899. 3 vols. 4to.

Catalogue of books in the John Rylands Library printed in England, Scotland, and Ireland, and of books in English printed abroad to the end of the year 1640. 1895. 4to, pp. iii, 147.

Catalogue of the Coptic manuscripts in the John Rylands Library. By W. E. Crum, M.A. 1909. 4to. pp. xii, 273. 12 plates of facsimiles.

Catalogue of the Demotic papyri in the John Rylands Library. With facsimiles and complete translations. By F. Ll. Griffith, M.A. 1909. 3 vols. 4to.

Vol. 1. Atlas of facsimiles in collotype. Vol. 2. Lithographed hand copies of the earlier documents. Vol. 3. Key-list, translations, commentaries, and indexes.

Catalogue of the Greek papyri in the John Rylands Library. By Arthur S. Hunt, M.A., Litt.D., J. de M. Johnson, M.A., and Victor Martin, D. ès L. Vol. 1: Literary texts (Nos. 1-61). 1911. 4to, pp. xii, 204. 10 plates of facsimiles. Vol. 2: Documents of the Ptolemaic and Roman periods (Nos. 62-456). 1916. 4to, pp. xx, 488. 23 plates.

The English Bible in the John Rylands Library, 1525 to 1640. By Richard Lovett. 1889. Fol., pp. xvi, 275, with 26 facsimiles and 39 engravings.

The John Rylands Facsimiles.

1. Propositio Johannis Russell. Printed by William Caxton, *circa* A.D. 1476. . . . With an introduction by Henry Guppy. 1909. 8vo, pp. 36, 8.
2. A booke in Englysh metre, of the great marchaunt man called "Dives Pragmaticus" . . . 1563. . . . With an introduction by Percy E. Newberry; and remarks on the vocabulary and dialect, with a glossary, by H. C. Wyld. 1910. 4to, pp xxxviii, 16.
3. A litil boke the whiche traytied and reherced many gode thinges necessaries for the . . . pestilence . . . made by the . . . Bisshop of Arusiens . . . [London,] [1485?]. . . . With an introduction by Guthrie Vine. 1910. 4to, pp. xxvi, 18.

4. Woodcuts of the fifteenth century in the John Rylands Library. Reproduced in facsimile. With an introduction and notes by Campbell Dodgson, 1915. Fol., 10 plates and 16 pp. of text, in a portfolio.

Exhibition Catalogues.

Catalogue of the manuscripts, books, and book-bindings exhibited at the opening of the John Rylands Library, October 6th, 1899. 1899. 8vo, pp. 41.

The John Rylands Library: a brief description of the building and its contents, with a descriptive list of the works exhibited in the main library. By Henry Guppy. 1902. 8vo, pp. 47.

Catalogue of an exhibition of Bibles in the John Rylands Library illustrating the history of the English versions from Wiclif to the present time. Including the personal copies of Queen Elizabeth, General Gordon, and Elizabeth Fry. 1904. 8vo, pp. 32.

Catalogue of the manuscripts and printed books exhibited in the John Rylands Library on the occasion of the visit of the National Council of the Evangelical Free Churches. 1905. 8vo, pp. 38.

A brief historical description of the John Rylands Library and its contents with catalogue of the selection of early printed Greek and Latin classics exhibited on the occasion of the visit of the Classical Association in October MCMVI. 1906. 8vo, pp. 89, with plates.

Catalogue of an exhibition of Bibles in the John Rylands Library illustrating the history of the English versions from Wiclif to the present time, including the personal copies of Queen Elizabeth, Elizabeth Fry, and others. 1907. 8vo, pp. vii, 55, with plates.

Catalogue of the selection of books and broadsides illustrating the early history of printing, exhibited in the John Rylands Library on the occasion of the visit of the Federation of Master Printers and Allied Trades in June, MCMVII. 1907. 8vo, pp. v, 34.

Catalogue of an exhibition of illuminated manuscripts, principally Biblical and liturgical, exhibited in the John Rylands Library on the occasion of the meeting of the Church Congress in October, MCMVIII. 1908. 8vo, pp. vii, 62, with plates.

Catalogue of an exhibition in the John Rylands Library of the original editions of the principal works of John Milton, arranged in celebration of the tercentenary of his birth. 1908. 8vo, pp. 24.

Catalogue of an exhibition of the works of Dante Alighieri, shown in the John Rylands Library from March to October, MCMIX. 1909. 8vo, pp. xii, 55.

Catalogue of an exhibition of original editions of the principal English Classics, shown in the John Rylands Library from March to October, MCMX. 1910. 8vo, pp. xv, 64.

Catalogue of an exhibition of manuscripts and printed copies of the Scriptures, illustrating the history of the transmission of the Bible, shown in the

John Rylands Library from March to December, MCMXI. Tercentenary of the "Authorised version" of the English Bible: A.D. 1611-1911. 1911. 8vo, pp. xiv, 128, with plates.

Catalogue of an exhibition of mediæval manuscripts and jewelled book covers shown in the John Rylands Library from January XII to December, MCMXII, including lists of palæographical works and of historical periodicals in the John Rylands Library. 1912. 8vo, pp. xiii, 134, with plates.

A brief historical description of the John Rylands Library and its contents, with catalogue of a selection of manuscripts and printed books exhibited on the occasion of the visit of the Congregational Union of England and Wales in October, MCMXII. With illustrations. Edited by Henry Guppy. 1912. 8vo, pp. x, 143.

Catalogue of an exhibition in the John Rylands Library of the works of Shakespeare, his sources, and the writings of his principal contemporaries. With an introductory sketch by Henry Guppy, and sixteen facsimiles. Tercentenary of the death of Shakespeare, April 23rd, 1916. 1916. 8vo, pp. xvi, 169.

— Second edition. 1916. 8vo, pp. xvi, 169.

Miscellaneous Publications.

An analytical catalogue of the contents of the two editions of "An English Garner," compiled by Edward Arber, 1877-97, and rearranged under the editorship of Thomas Seccombe, 1903-04. 1909. 8vo, pp. vii, ff. 221.

The ascent of Olympus. By Rendel Harris. 1917. 8vo, pp. 140. 20 illustrations.

Bibliographical notes for the study of the Old Testament. By A. S. Peake, M.A., D.D. To accompany his lecture on how to study the Old Testament, delivered in the John Rylands Library, November 26th, 1913. 1913. 8vo, pp. 7.

Bibliographical notes for students of the New Testament. By Arthur S. Peake, M.A., D.D. To accompany his lecture on how to study the New Testament. 1914. 8vo, pp. 10.

The Books of the Middle Ages and their makers. By Henry Guppy. An address delivered at the Educational Committee's Association's Conference held at the John Rylands Library, Manchester, on March 7th, 1908. 1908. 8vo, pp. 36.

A brief historical description of the John Rylands Library and its contents. By Henry Guppy. 1907. 8vo, pp. 53, with plates.

A brief historical description of the John Rylands Library and its contents, illustrated with 37 views and facsimiles. By Henry Guppy. 1914. 8vo, pp. xv, 73.

A brief sketch of the life and times of Shakespeare, with chronological table of the principal events. By Henry Guppy. Reprinted from the

"Catalogue of an exhibition of the works of Shakespeare.. . . " 1916. 8vo, pp. 30. Frontispiece.

Bulletin of the John Rylands Library. Edited by the Librarian. 8vo. *In Progress.*

A classified catalogue of the works on architecture and the allied arts in the principal libraries of Manchester and Salford, with alphabetical author list and subject index. Edited for the Joint Architectural Committee of Manchester by H. Guppy and G. Vine. 1909. 8vo, pp. xxv, 310. Interleaved.

The evolution of the dragon. By G. Elliot Smith, M.A., M.D., F.R.S. Illustrated. 1919. 8vo, pp. xx, 234.

Johann Gutenberg and the Dawn of typography in Germany. Lecture by the librarian on October 14th, 1903. With list of works exhibited at the John Rylands Library to illustrate the work of the first typographers in Germany, and a selection from the works in the library bearing upon the the subject. 1903. 8vo, pp. 15.

Memorial of the inauguration of the John Rylands Library, 6th October, 1899. Morning programme and brief description of the building. 1899. 8vo, pp. 23.

The movement of Old Testament scholarship in the nineteenth century. Synopsis of a lecture by . . . A. S. Peake, M.A., D.D., delivered in the John Rylands Library on November 11th, 1903. With some leading dates in Pentateuch criticism. 1903. 8vo, pp. 8.

The odes and psalms of Solomon. Re-edited for the Governors of the John Rylands Library by Rendel Harris and Alphonse Mingana. 1916-20. 2 vols. 4to.

Vol. 1 : The text, with facsimile reproductions.
Vol. 2 : The translation, with introduction and notes.

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Conway (R. S.). The Venetian point of view in Roman history. 1917-18. 8vo, pp. 22.

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Peake (A. S.). The quintessence of Paulinism. 1917-18. 8vo, pp. 31.

Perry (W. J.). War and civilisation. 1917-18. 8vo, pp. 27, with 9 sketch maps.

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Poel (W.). Some notes on Shakespeare's stage and plays. 1916. 8vo, pp. 16, with 3 illustrations.

Powicke (F. J.). A Puritan idyll; or, Richard Baxter's love story. 1917-18. 8vo, pp. 35.

Powicke (F. J.). Story and significance of the Rev. Richard Baxter's "Saints' everlasting rest". 1920. 8vo, pp. 35. Frontispiece.

Rivers (W. H. R.). Dreams and primitive culture. 1917-18. 8vo, pp. 28.

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— Second edition. 1920. 8vo, pp. 23.

Smith (G. E.). The influence of ancient Egyptian civilisation in the East and in America. 1916. 8vo, pp. 32. 7 illustrations.

Some early Judaeo-Christian documents in the John Rylands Library: Syriac texts. Edited with translations by Alphonse Mingana, D.D. 1. A new life of Clement of Rome. 2. The book of Shem, son of Noah. 3. Fragment from the philosopher Andronicus, and Asaph, the historian of the Jews. 1917. 8vo, pp. 62.

Souter (A.). List of abbreviations and contractions, etc., in the John Rylands Library manuscript no. 15. 1919. 8vo, pp. 7.

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Thumb (A.). The modern Greek and his ancestry. 1914. 8vo, pp. 27.

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Tout (T. F.). Mediæval forgers and forgeries. 1920. 8vo, pp. 31.

Tout (T. F.). Mediæval town planning. 1917. 8vo, pp. 35. 11 illustrations.

Works upon the study of Greek and Latin palæography and diplomatic in the John Rylands Library. 1903. 4to, pp. 15.

Admirable as the building is from the architectural point of view, it became evident within a few months of the opening of the library that adequate provision had not been made for the administrative requirements of such an institution, or for the growth and development of its collections. EXTENSION OF THE BUILDING.

Representations were consequently made to Mrs. Rylands, who, with her usual readiness to listen to any proposals which were calculated to increase the usefulness and efficiency of her foundation, at once undertook to equip two large book-rooms at the rear of the building, in one of which the manuscripts were later housed, and to furnish the basement with shelves. At the same time she caused inquiries to be made as to the possibility of acquiring land to provide for future extension. Unfortunately, the owners of the property adjoining the library were either unwilling to sell, or would only sell at a price which was prohibitive, so that the matter for the time being had to remain in abeyance.

No further action was taken until 1907, when a block of property, covering an area of 476 square yards, situated at the side of the library but not adjoining it, was purchased by Mrs. Rylands, for the purpose of erecting thereon a store-building on the stack principle, in the absence of a more suitable site. Mrs. Rylands was at that time in a rapidly failing state of health, and death intervened before the arrangements in pursuance of her intentions could be completed, or her testamentary wishes with regard to them could be obtained.

Beyond the clearance of the site nothing further had been done towards the utilisation of this land, when in 1909 circumstances arose which rendered such considerations unnecessary, since the governors were offered one plot of land at the rear of the library and immediately adjacent, and after somewhat protracted negotiations they were able to acquire not only that plot but also nine others, covering an area of nearly 1200 square yards. This was a source of great relief, for it provided not only for the future extension of the library, to meet the normal growth of its collections for at least a century, but at the same time it removed an element of great risk due to the proximity of some very dangerous property, parts of which were stored with highly inflammable material. It was also possible to create an island site of the library buildings, by arranging that an open space should be left between the new wing and the nearest of the adjoining property.

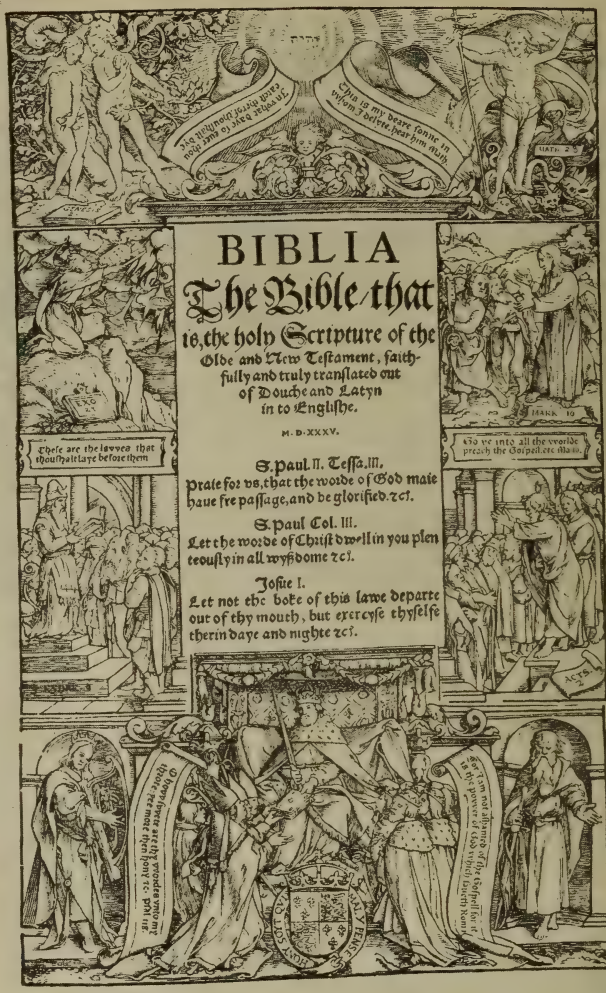
apō his face. But whēne he went before the Lorde to ſpeak with him, he toke the couerīge of vntill he came out. And he came out and ſpake vnto the childern of Iſrael that which he was commaunded. And the childern of Iſrael ſawe the face of Moſes, that the ſkynne of his face ſhone with beames: but Moſes put a couerynge vppon his face, vntill he went in, to comen with him.

The Pope ſpeaketh that whēne he is not commaunded.

The. xxxv. Chapter.

AND Moſes gathered all the companye of the childern of Iſrael together, and ſayde vnto them: theſe are the thinges which the Lorde hath commaunded to doo: Sixe dayes ye ſhall worke, but the ſeuenth daye ſhal be vnto you the holy Sabbath of the Lordes reſt: ſo that whoſoeuer doth any worke there in, ſhall dye. Moreouer ye ſhall kyndle no fyre thorow out all youre habitacyons apō the Sabbath daye.

And Moſes ſpake vnto all the multitude of the childern of Iſrael ſainge: this is the thinge which the Lorde cōmaūded ſaynge: Geue frō amōge you an heueoffringe, vnto the Lorde. All thatt are willynge in their hartes, ſhall brynge heueoffringes vnto the Lorde: golde, ſyluer, braſſe: Iacyncte, ſcarlet, purpull, byſſe ād gootes hare: rams ſkynnes red and taxus ſkynnes and



25. TITLE-PAGE OF THE FIRST PRINTED ENGLISH "COVERDALE'S" BIBLE, 1535

These purchases were completed in 1911, and a scheme for the utilisation of the newly acquired site was prepared, in which, briefly stated, the specified requirements to be met were as follows :—

One of the most urgent needs was accommodation for book-storage. This was to be provided by means of stacks of enamelled steel, divided into floors of a uniform height of 7ft. 6in., in order that every shelf should be within reach, without the aid of ladders.

In the matter of provision for administrative work the library was very deficient, with the result that much of the work had to be carried on under conditions which were far from satisfactory. This was to be remedied by the inclusion of : (*a*) an accessions-room, where the books could be received, checked, registered, and otherwise dealt with preparatory to their handling by the cataloguers ; (*b*) a binding-room where the work of preparation for the binder could be carried out, and where repairs to valuable books and manuscripts could be effected under proper supervision by an imported craftsman, so as to obviate the risk involved in their removal to the binder's workshop ; (*c*) a room for the assistant secretary, where the secretarial work could be carried out under proper conditions, and where the numerous account books could be kept together, and provision made for their safe custody.

In the original building no special arrangements had been made for the custody of manuscripts, since the initial stock included but a handful of such volumes. When the Crawford collection came to be transferred to the library by Mrs. Rylands, the only accommodation available was on the ground floor, where there was little natural light. Therefore, a new adequately lighted and specially equipped room was urgently needed to provide for the development of this rapidly increasing department of the library. Adjoining the manuscript-room a work-room was essential for the shelving of the necessary reference books, such as catalogues of manuscripts in other libraries, and the collection of works on palæography and diplomatic.

Hitherto no provision had been made for the staff in the way of common-rooms, and it was proposed that two such rooms should be provided, one for the men and the other for the women assistants, to serve as rest-rooms during the intervals between periods of duty. It was also proposed that a work-room should be provided in close proximity to the main reading-room, where the librarian could, when

necessary, escape the constantly increasing interruptions to which he has properly to submit when in his official room. Here also it was proposed to make provision for the storage of all library plans and official documents. A room was also needed for the storage of the publications issued by the library.

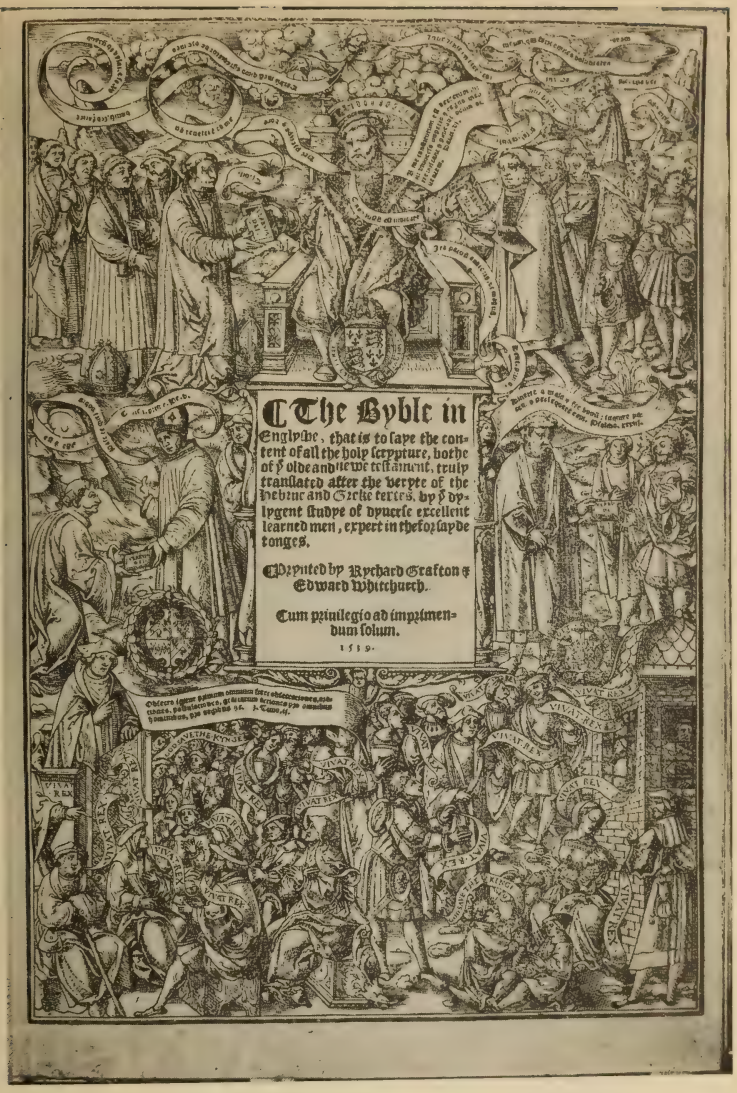
Another need which was making itself felt was additional accomodation for readers, and this, it was felt, could best be met by the provision of a new reading-room reserved for special research, similar to the inner room in the British Museum, where specially rare books could be consulted under proper supervision. The proposal was to place this room at a point of the site farthest from Deansgate, on the top of the large stack building, so as to provide the lightest and quietest room of the suite, where readers would be able to work in comfort surrounded by the general reference works arranged on open shelves, and at the same time be free from the distractions which are inevitable in the more public part of the library.

Communication between all the floors of the original building and the new wing was to be obtained by means of a new automatic electric lift, placed between the two sections of the building, and the various departments were also to be linked up by means of an internal system of telephones.

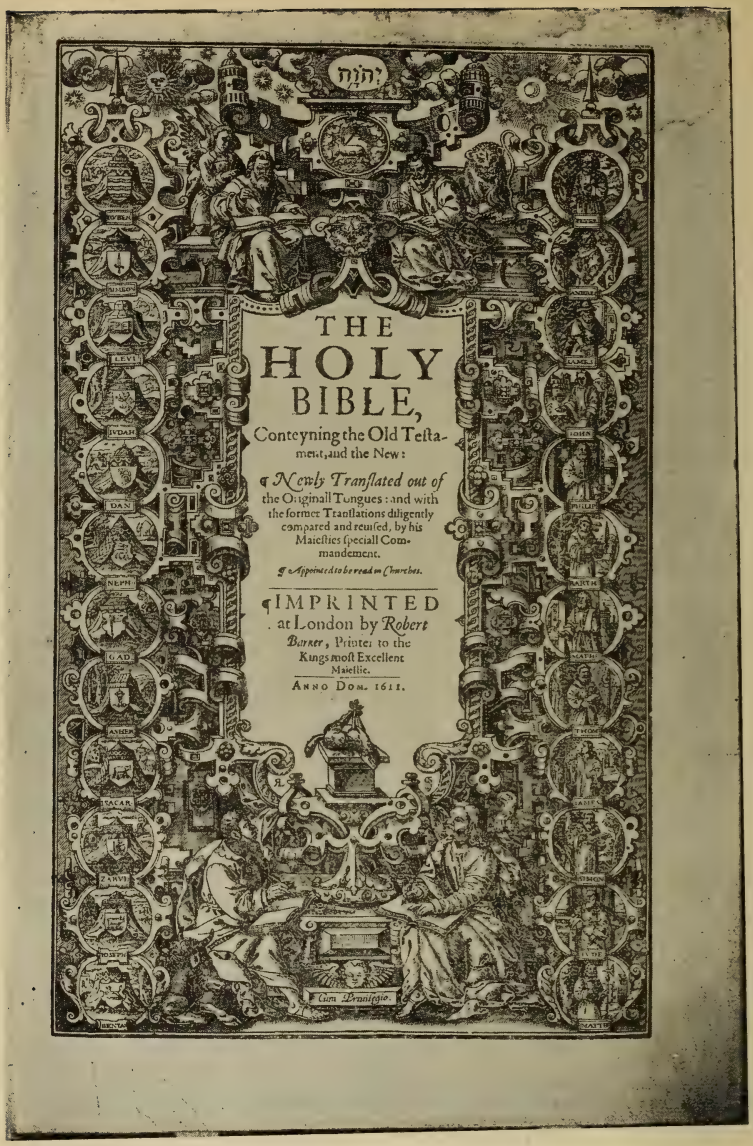
The experience gained during the twelve years of working had revealed the fact that the heating and ventilation systems were by no means satisfactory. It was considered advisable, therefore, to overhaul the installation with a view of securing much greater efficiency, whilst at the same time providing for the increased requirements of the extended range of buildings under contemplation.

One grave mistake which had been made in the original scheme of ventilation, which was on the " plenum " system, was to place the air inlets and fans at the pavement level in the side streets, which are always more or less foul. One of the first requirements, therefore, in the new block, was the erection of a shaft for the intake of air at the highest possible point, where it would be less polluted than at the street level, of a capacity sufficient to provide for the whole of the buildings, present and future.

After careful consideration by the governors these proposals were forwarded to Mr. Basil Champneys, the architect of the original structure, with a request that he would prepare designs for the contemplated



26. TITLE-PAGE OF THE "GREAT BIBLE," 1539



27. TITLE-PAGE OF THE FIRST EDITION OF THE "AUTHORISED VERSION," 1611, OF THE ENGLISH BIBLE

extension, in which the character and spirit of the original structure should be maintained, and in such a way that the work could be carried out in two sections.

The architect submitted his sketch plans in 1912, but it was not until the end of 1913 that work was commenced upon the first part of the scheme, which was to include all the specified provisions, except the larger stack-room and the large reading-room.

From beginning to end the matter bristled with difficulties, new problems having to be faced at every turn, such as a new system of drainage, and the reconstruction of the boiler-house to meet the requirements of the enlarged building in the matter of heating. Then the war intervened, bringing in its train new obstacles in the way of shortage of labour, and the difficulty of obtaining the necessary materials, with the inevitable result that work was at first retarded, and, for nearly eighteen months in 1918 and 1919 it was brought to a complete standstill. Fortunately, with the help of the late Sir George Macalpine, who, as Chairman of the Council of Governors and also of the Building Committee, rendered invaluable service, and of Mr. William Windsor, the surveyor, who was untiring in his efforts to expedite the work, these difficulties were surmounted one by one, until, in July of last year, the contractors having completed their undertaking, it was with a sense of relief that the first portion of the new wing was brought into use, and the work of the library has since been greatly facilitated.

With the completion of the first part of our scheme, providing as it does shelf accommodation for an additional 150,000 volumes, much of which, it should be pointed out, has already been taken up by the accumulations of the last few years, the immediate cause for anxiety has been removed.

When, however, it is understood that the normal rate of growth during the past twenty-one years has averaged something like 10,000 volumes per year, it will be realised that within the next decade the need for further shelf-accommodation will again become urgent, and it will be necessary to consider ways and means for carrying out the deferred part of the scheme, under which it is estimated that the requirements of the library both in respect of book storage and also of seating accommodation for readers for at least the remainder of the present century have been fully anticipated.

In pre-war days the income of the library was considered to be

adequate to meet not only the cost of maintenance and ordinary book purchase, but also to allow of the creation of a reserve fund from which to meet such contingencies as are represented by exceptional book purchases, dilapidations, and building extension. Such, however, have been the financial effects of the war, that an income that was considered to be ample for all purposes in 1914 is now barely sufficient to meet the current and growing needs of the institution, if it is to be kept abreast of the times ; so that the provision of anything in the nature of a reserve fund is practically out of the question, and we can only hope that some enlightened benefactor, will conceive the desire of taking up the work inaugurated by Mrs. Rylands, and by so doing assist the governors not only to carry it on in the spirit and intention of the founder, but to develop it along lines which shall yield still greater results in the stimulation of original investigation, and in the encouragement of scholarship.

CONTENTS OF THE LIBRARY.

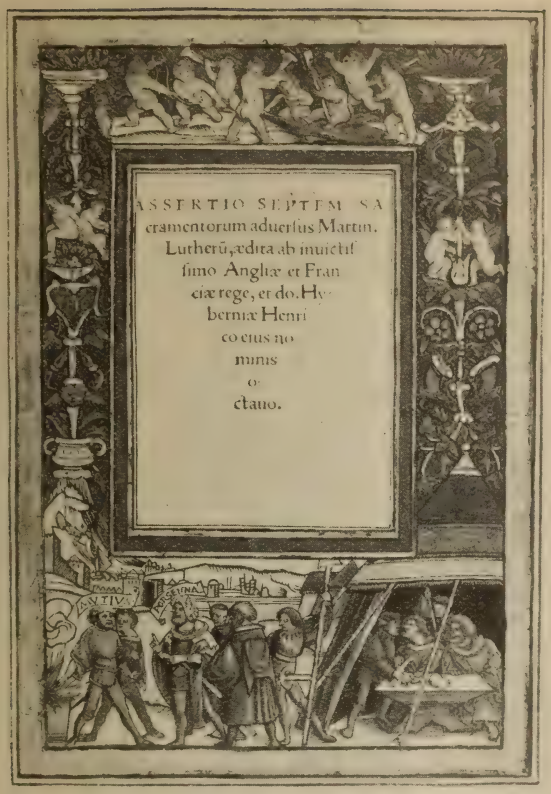
It is impossible within the limits of such a short article as the present to convey anything like an adequate idea of the wealth of rare and precious volumes which the library contains, and which merit extended notice, for, to do justice to any one of the many sections, would require a volume of considerable length ; and yet, it would be obviously incomplete without some reference, however brief, to at least a few of the most noteworthy of the features which have made it famous in the world of books.

Apart from any other consideration we feel this to be necessary, for we are constantly reminded of the fact that there are still many students interested in the various fields of research which the library covers, who have but a vague idea of the range and character of its contents.

EARLY PRINTED BOOKS.

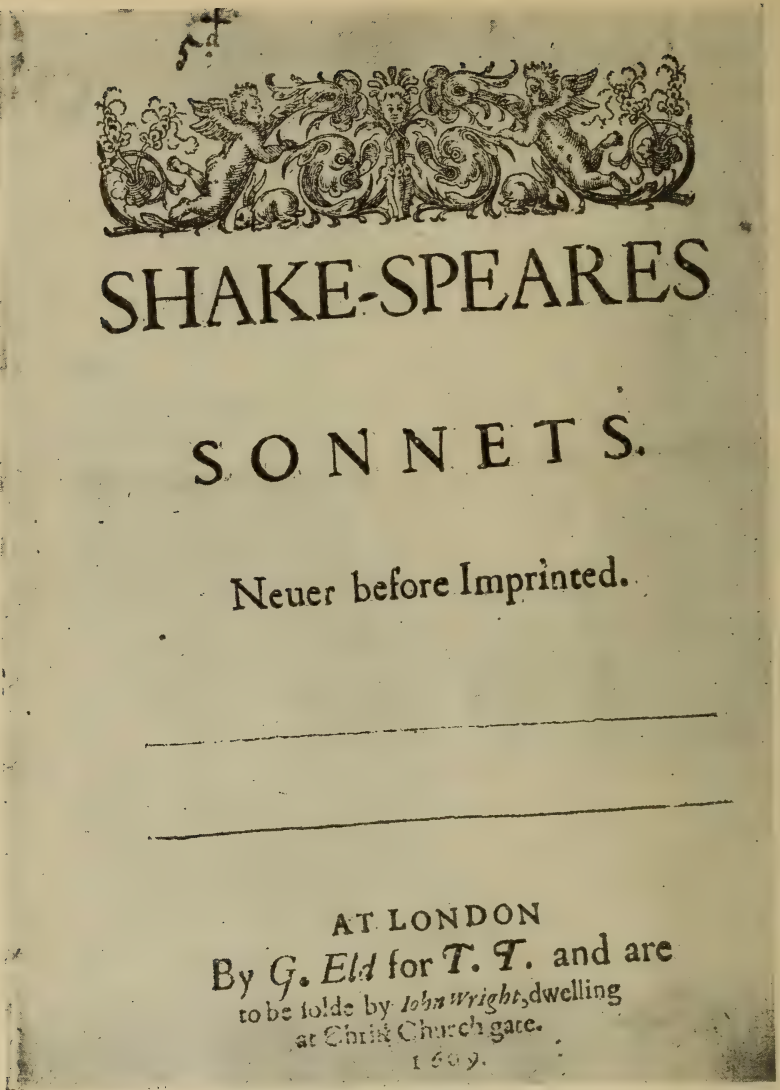
One of the most noteworthy of its features is the collection of books printed before the year 1501, numbering upwards of 3000 volumes. These books have been arranged upon the shelves of the room specially constructed for their accommodation, and known as "The Early Printed Book Room," in such a way as to show at a glance the direction which the art of printing took in the course of its progress and development across Europe.

Commencing with the specimens of block-printing, those immediate



28. TITLE PAGE OF HENRY VIII'S "ASSERTIO SEPTEM SACRAMENTORUM"

London, 1522


SHAKE-SPEARES

SONNETS.

Neuer before Imprinted.

AT LONDON
By *G. Eld* for *T. T.* and are
to be solde by *John Wright*, dwelling
at Christ Church gate.
1609.

29. TITLE-PAGE OF SHAKESPEARE'S "SONNETS"
London, 1609

precursors of the type-printed book, which may be described as the stepping-stones from the manuscript to that remarkable development which took place in the middle of the fifteenth century with the invention of the printing press, the first object to claim attention is the famous block-print of "Saint Christopher," bearing an inscription, and the date 1423. This, the earliest known piece of European printing to which an unquestioned and, until recently, unchallenged date is attached, and of which no other copy is known, is alone sufficient to make the library famous. From the single leaf prints, of which there are in addition several undated examples, some of which may belong to a slightly earlier period, to the block-books was the next step in the development. These block-books were mostly made up from single leaves, printed only on one side of the paper from engraved slabs or blocks of pear or apple wood, cut on the plank, and then made up into books by being pasted back to back. Fourteen of these volumes are preserved in the library, of which nine may be assigned conjecturally to the period between 1440 and 1450. The best known are the "Apocalypsis," the "Biblia Pauperum," the "Ars Moriendi," the "Ars Memorandi," and the "Speculum Humanæ Salvationis".

Of the earliest examples of the type printed books, assuming that the first press was set up at Mainz, we possess copies of the "Letters of Indulgence" printed in 1454 and 1455 respectively; the two splendid Latin Bibles, technically known as the "36-line," and the "42-line," from the number of lines to a column, and popularly known as the "Pfister or Bamberg Bible," and the "Mazarin Bible"; the "Mainz Psalter" of 1457, 1459, and 1490, the first of which, believed to be the only perfect copy known of the 143-leaved issue, is the first book to contain particulars of date, place, and printers. Of these, and the other productions of the press or presses at Mainz, with which the names of Gutenberg, Fust, and Schoeffer are associated, the library possesses no fewer than fifty examples. By means of the examples from the other presses to be found on the shelves of this room, it is possible to follow the art, step by step, in its progress through Germany, where printing was carried on in at least fifty-one towns by not fewer than 219 printers, before the close of the fifteenth century.

Though the printing press was born in Germany, the full flower

of its development was first reached in Italy, at that time the home of scholarship. The first printers of Italy were two migrant Germans, Sweynheym and Pannartz, who set up their press in the Benedictine monastery at Subiaco, in 1465. With the exception of the "Donatus," of which not even a fragment of the 300 copies printed is known to survive, there is a copy of every book mentioned by these printers in their famous catalogue of 1472. From that date (1465) to 1500 the progress of the art in Italy was quite phenomenal. Within five years of the establishment of the first press in Venice, by another German, named John of Spire, in 1469, printing had been introduced into most of the chief towns in Italy, and before the end of the century presses had been set up in seventy-three towns. In Venice alone at least 151 presses had been started, and something approaching two millions of volumes had been printed, before the close of the fifteenth century, an output which exceeded the total of all the other Italian towns put together. These presses are well represented in the John Rylands collection, and it is possible in most cases to exhibit the first work produced by the respective printers. Of one specimen of early Venetian printing mention may be made; it is the first edition of Boccaccio's "Decameron," printed by Valdarfer in 1471, of which no other perfect copy is known. Of the early productions of the Neapolitan presses the library possesses many examples, several of which are the only recorded copies. The printers of Basle are well represented, as also are the printers of Paris, Lyons, and the other centres of printing in France, Holland, and Belgium.

Turning to the shelves devoted to England, we find that of genuine Caxtons the library possesses sixty examples, four of which are unique. The collection includes the first book printed in English at Bruges: "The Recuyell of the Histories of Troye," the first dated book printed at Westminster: "The Dictes or Sayengis of the philosophres," "The Advertisement," "Malory's Morte d'Arthur," and the "Propositio Johannis Russell," of each of the three last named only one other copy is known.

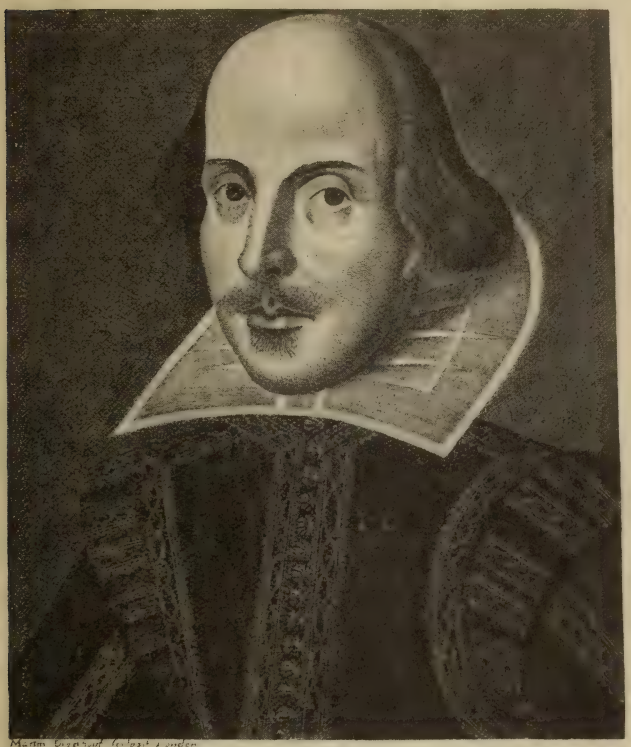
Of the works of the later printers in London: Wynkyn de Worde, Lettou, Machlinia, Pynson, Notary, and of the Schoolmaster printer of St. Albans, the library possesses many examples, whilst of the early Oxford books there are nine, including the famous "Expositio" of Rufinus, with the misprinted date of 1468.

Mr. WILLIAM

SHAKESPEARES

COMEDIES,
HISTORIES, &
TRAGEDIES.

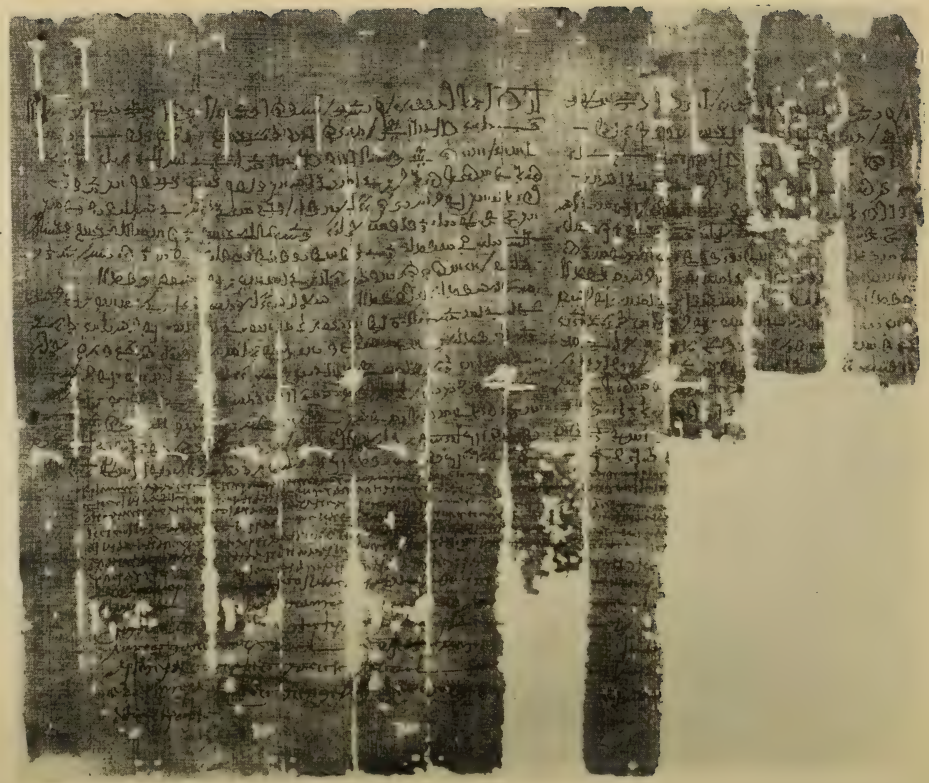
Published according to the True Originall Copies.



LONDON

Printed by Isaac Iaggard, and Ed. Blount. 1623

30. THE "FIRST FOLIO" OF THE WORKS OF SHAKESPEARE, 1623



31. PAPYRUS ROLL. A.D. 29
Demotic and Greek

There are a few of the monuments of early printing which, to the number of 3000, three-fourths of which were printed before 1480, are to be found upon the shelves of the Early Printed Book Room, the majority of them remarkable for their excellent state of preservation, and a considerable proportion of them printed on vellum.

Not less remarkable than the "Incunabula" is the collection of books printed at the famous Venetian press, founded by the scholar-printer Aldus, in or about the year 1494. ALDINE PRESS. The collection is considered to be the largest ever brought together, numbering as it does upwards of 800 volumes, many of them printed on vellum. Few men in his own, or in any age, have done more for the spread of knowledge than Aldus. His earliest aim seems to have been to rescue the masterpieces of Greek literature from the destruction ever impending over a few scattered manuscripts, but he did not by any means confine his attention to the Greek classics, though the achievements of his Latin press are not so distinguished as those of his Greek press. It was Aldus who was responsible for the introduction of the famous *Italic* type, which he first employed in printing the Vergil of 1501, and which is said to be a close copy of the handwriting of Petrarch. The closeness of this new type enabled the printer to make up his sheets into a size of volume that could easily be held in the hand, and readily carried in the pocket. At the same time the new type also allowed him to compress into the small dainty format, by which the press of Aldus is best remembered, as much as the purchaser could heretofore buy in a large folio. Aldus died in 1516, but his printing establishment continued in active operation until 1597, a period of 102 years. The collection also comprises a considerable number of the counterfeit Aldines.

Equally noteworthy are the Bibles which have been brought together in the "Bible Room," comprising copies of all the earliest and most famous texts and versions, together with the later revisions and translations, from the Mainz edition of the Latin Vulgate of about 1455 to the "Westminster Version of the Sacred Scriptures," 1913, etc. BIBLE COLLECTION. Indeed the Bible collection may be looked upon as the complement of the other collections, since, between the printing of the first and the last editions, an interval of four and a half centuries, it shows the progress and comparative development of the art of printing in a manner that no other single book can. As the

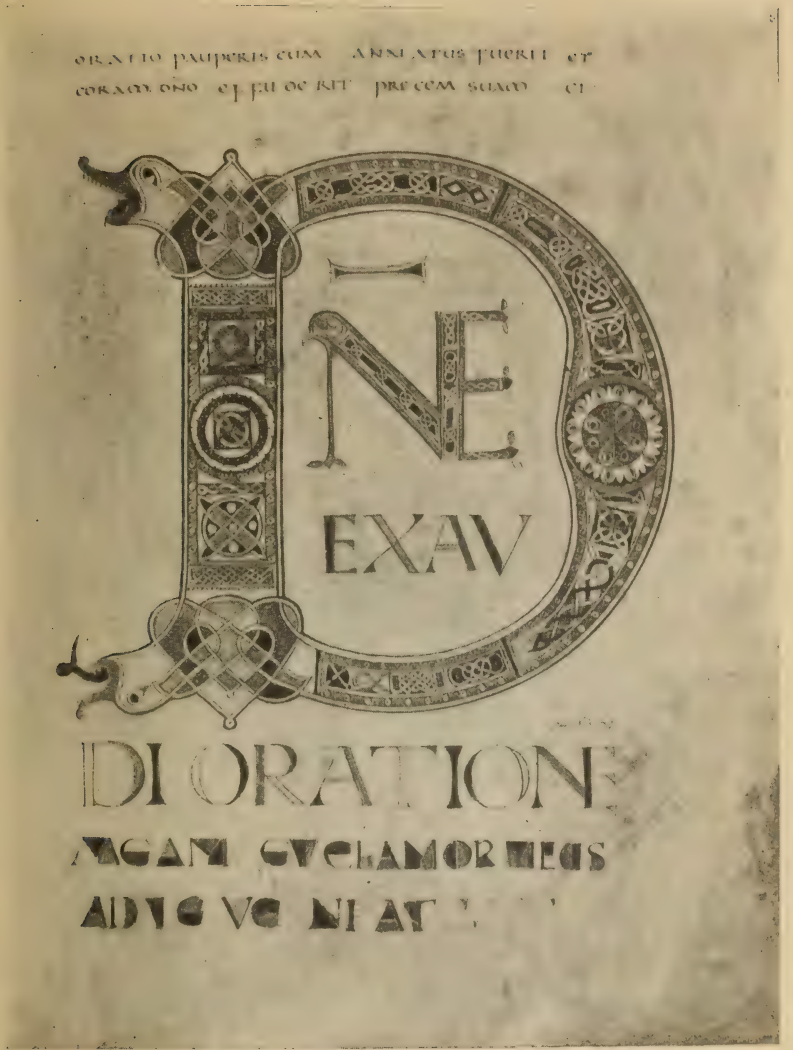
art of printing made its way across Europe, the Bible was generally the first, or one of the first, books to be printed by many of the early printers. Four editions of the Bible in Latin, and two great Latin Psalters had appeared in type before a single volume of the classics had been dealt with in a similar way. The earliest printed Bibles were of the Latin Vulgate, and of this version alone upwards of one hundred editions had appeared before the close of the fifteenth century. The most important of these editions, to the number of sixty-four, thirty-two of which have been added to the collection during the period under review, are to be found in the Bible Room, together with many of the editions of the sixteenth and later centuries.

The collection also includes the four great Polyglots, printed at Alcala (Complutum), Antwerp, Paris, and London respectively; the Greek texts from the Aldine "editio princeps" of 1518, with the facsimiles of the principal codices, and all the important editions down to that of Von Soden, issued in 1911-13; and the Hebrew texts commencing with the Bologna and Soncino portions of 1477 and 1485, followed by a long series of editions down to and including the current texts of Ginsburg and Kittel. Of the translations into German, French, Italian, Icelandic, Danish, Dutch, Bohemian, Polish, Slavonic, Spanish, Welsh, Manx, Gaelic, Irish, and Chinese, the earliest, almost without exception, and the most important of the later editions are represented, many of the copies being of exceptional interest, if not unique. Indeed, if we include the more modern translations of the whole Bible or parts of it, issued by the various Bible Societies, upwards of four hundred languages or dialects are represented in the collection.

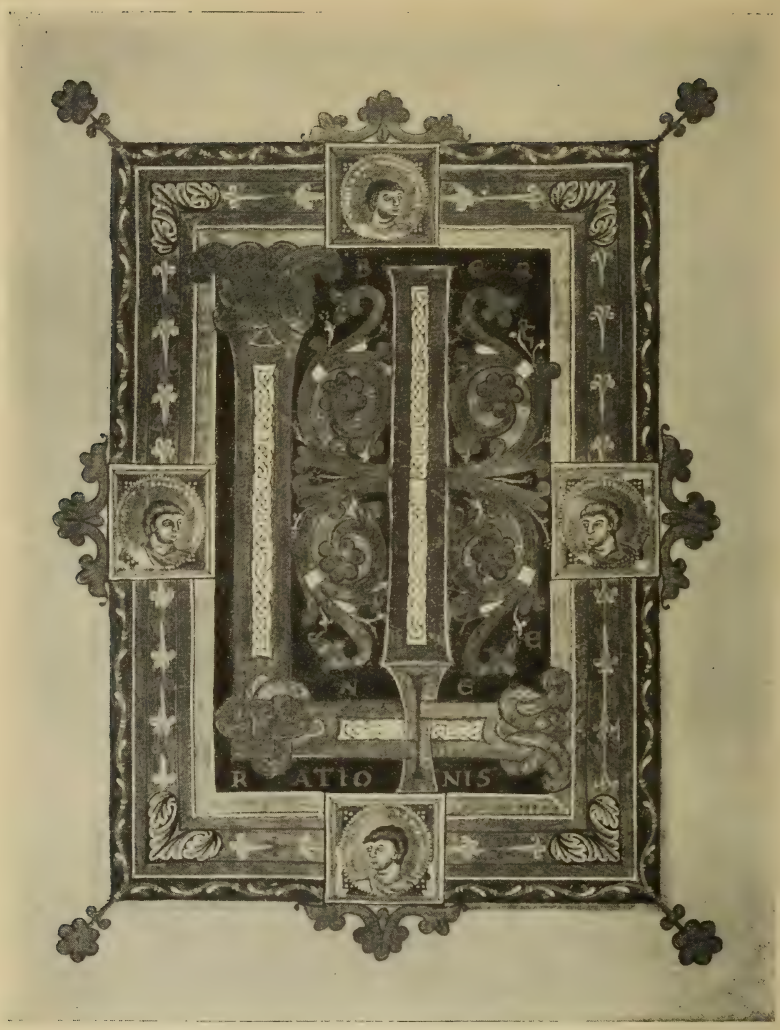
The English section illustrates very fully the history of the English versions from Wiclif (of which there are twelve manuscript copies) to the present day, including such rarities as Tindale's "Pentateuch," his "Testaments" of 1534 and 1536; the "Coverdale Bible" of 1535, and the "Matthew Bible" of 1537, to mention only a few of the outstanding items.

GREEK AND LATIN CLASSICS.

On the classical side the library is pre-eminently rich, with its remarkable series of early and fine impressions of the Greek and Latin classics, which, with few exceptions, still retain the freshness they possessed when they left the hands of the printers four hundred years ago. On the occasion of the



32. A PAGE OF THE "TRIER PSALTER"
German MS. 9th Cent



33. A PAGE OF THE "EMPEROR OTTO'S GOSPELS"
German MS. 10th Cent.

holding of the annual conference of the Classical Association in Manchester in 1906, we were able to exhibit of the fifty principal Greek and Latin writers the first printed edition of each, including the only known copy of the "Batrachomyomachia" of 1474, which has the distinction of being the first printed Greek classic. The value of such a series, apart from typographical considerations, as aids to textual criticism, is obvious enough when it is remembered that many of the manuscripts from which these texts were printed have since perished. Of Cicero alone there are seventy-eight editions of such of his works as were printed before 1501. With scarcely an exception the collection contains not only the first, but the principal editions of the Greek and Latin writers, together with all the modern critical apparatus, and the facsimiles of the famous codices, which have been issued within recent years.

ITALIAN CLASSICS.

Of the great masters of Italian literature the library possesses a considerable collection. The Dante collection alone numbers upwards of 6000 volumes, including five manuscripts; and is specially rich in early editions of the "Divina Commedia," comprising the three earliest printed editions of 1472, issued respectively at Foligno, Jesi, and Mantua, and two copies of the Florentine edition of 1481 with Landino's commentary, one of which contains the twenty engravings executed by Baldini in imitation of Sandro Botticelli. The collection of Boccaccio's "Il Decamerone" consists of eight fifteenth century editions, including the only known perfect copy of the "editio princeps," printed at Venice by Valdarfer, in 1471, and a long series of sixteenth century and later editions. Many other names are equally well represented, as are also the writers of the sixteenth and later centuries down to the present day.

ENGLISH LITERATURE.

The department of English literature is remarkable for its richness. It is not possible to do more than mention a few names, therefore the extent of the collection must not be estimated by the limited number of works to which specific reference is made. Shakespeare is well represented with two sets of the four folios, the "Sonnets" of 1609 and 1640, and a long range of the later and the critical editions. Of Chaucer there are the earliest as well as the principal later editions, commencing with the "Canterbury Tales" of 1478. These are followed by a long series of the original editions of Ben Jonson, Spenser, Milton, Bunyan,

Drayton, and the other great classics of England, including a large number of the smaller pieces of Elizabethan literature. On the modern side there is an equally representative collection of the original issues of the works of the principal writers such as Tennyson, Browning, Ruskin, Byron, and Lamb, to mention only one or two of the outstanding names, together with all the modern critical literature which students are likely to require in conducting their research.

FRENCH, SPANISH, GERMAN, AND OTHER LITERATURES.

In French literature the library is particularly rich in the sixteenth and seventeenth century writers, including a number of finely illustrated editions of the great classics, whilst the modern writers, comprising the more recent schools of poetry, together with the critical literature surrounding them, are to be found abundantly represented.

There is an excellent collection of Spanish and of German literature, and to a lesser degree of Portuguese and Russian, whilst the other minor literatures have not been neglected. Indeed, the student of comparative literature will find here most of the authorities he is likely to need for consultation in the course of his investigations. Not only will he find the masterpieces of literature, those great books which have been made great by the greatness of the personalities that gave them life, but he will find them surrounded by the wide range of critical literature to which they have given rise.

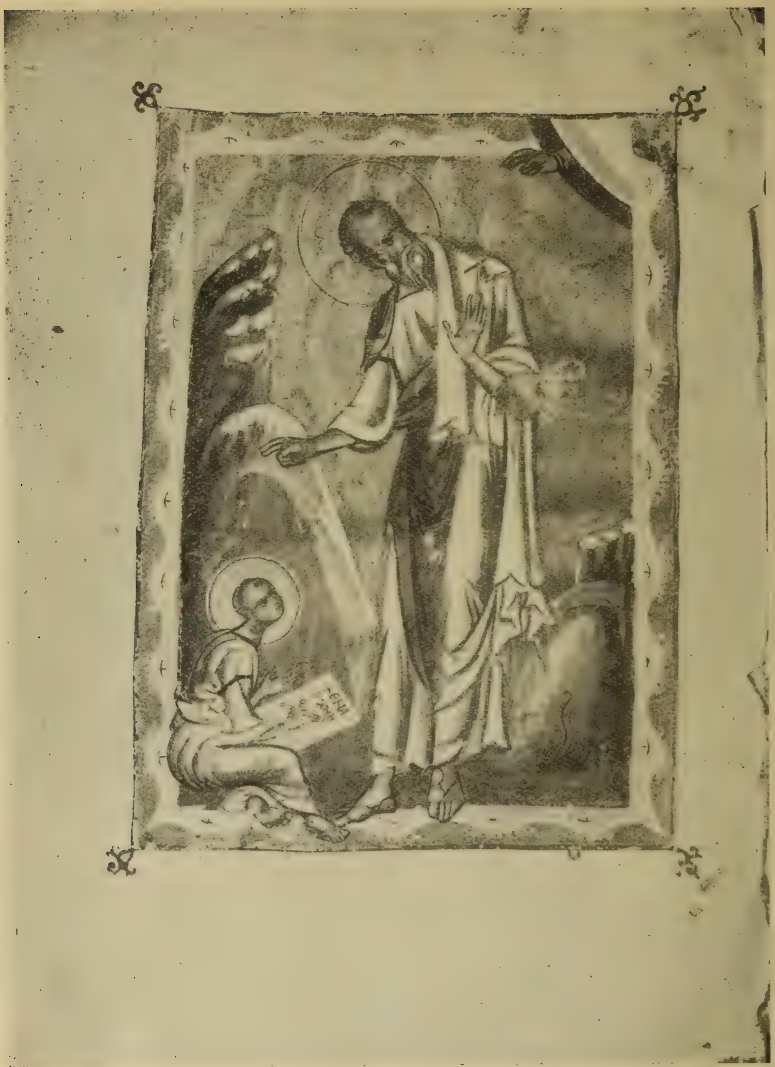
PHILOLOGY.

The departments of classical philology, and of Oriental and modern European languages, include all the important reference books, with the working material necessary for linguistic studies.

HISTORY.

The historical section which has been gradually and systematically built up by well-selected purchases, commences to attain some measure of completeness, so that students, whether of the ancient, classical, mediæval, or modern periods, will find the library's range very comprehensive. It is well equipped in the matter of the great historical collections, such as : Rymer, Rushworth, Montfaucon, Pertz, Muratori, the " Monumenta Germaniæ Historica," " Le Recueil des Historiens des Gaules," " Gallia Christiana," " Documents inédits sur l'histoire de France," " Commission Royale d'histoire de Belgique," " Chroniken der deutschen Städte," the various " Collections des mémoires relatifs à l'histoire de France," the " Rolls Series of Chronicles and Memorials," the " Calendars of State Papers," the

34. ST. JOHN FROM A "GREEK GOSPELS"
Byzantine MS. 11th Cent.



35. ST. JOHN FROM A "GREEK GOSPELS"
Byzantine MS. 11th Cent.

"Acta Sanctorum" of the Bollandists, the collections of Wadding, Manrique, Holstenius-Brockie, the principal editions of the mediæval chroniclers, together with the publications of the most important of the archæological and historical societies of this country, and of Europe generally, as well as of America, and the principal historical periodicals of this and other countries. Quite recently special attention has been given to the history of India and America, with the result that collections of some thousands of volumes have been obtained, with a view of encouraging research in these fields of study. For the history of India the collection of research material, both manuscript and printed, is very extensive, consisting of state papers, government reports and publications, many of which, printed in remote parts of India, would have been unprocurable but for the generous assistance rendered by the Secretary of State for India. For the history of the East India Company and Warren Hastings, the material is especially rich. The student of American history will find, in addition to many of the rare early printed sources and the standard modern authorities, a collection of the publications and transactions of historical associations of the various states. The collection of pamphlets, numbering upwards of 15,000, is of extreme importance, offering valuable original material for research for the study of the Civil War, the Popish Plot, the Revolution of 1688, the Non-Juror controversy, the Solemn League and Covenant, of English politics under the first three Georges, and to a lesser extent for the French Revolution. The few titles and topics mentioned are only intended to indicate the wide scope of the library, covering as it does the whole field of history, from the ancient Empires of the East, through the Greek and Roman periods, down to the present day. In a later paragraph we shall refer to the rapidly growing collection of manuscript material, consisting of charters and other documents awaiting investigation.

The topographical and genealogical collections, which are very extensive, should also be mentioned as of importance. Indeed, every effort is being used to make this department of the library still more efficient to meet the requirements of the students engaged on special research. Reference should also be made to the fact that many of the county histories, biographies, and special histories, have been extra illustrated, with the result that the library contains pictorial matter in the form of tens of thousands of prints, representing persons and places, many of which are of extreme rarity.

THEOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY.

Theology occupies a prominent place in the library by reason of the special character that was impressed upon it from its inception. The original intention of the founder was to establish a library, the chief purpose of which should be the promotion of the higher forms of religious knowledge. It is true the scope of the institution was enlarged by the purchase of the Althorp collection, but in the selection of the 200,000 volumes which have been acquired since 1899, the governors have steadily kept in view the founder's original intention. Reference has already been made to the Biblical texts. In the matter of patristic and scholastic theology the library is very rich, especially in the early printed texts, whilst of the Benedictine editions of the Fathers there is a complete set. The liturgical section is very strong, its collections of early missals and breviaries being specially noteworthy. There are twenty missals printed between 1475 and 1504, including the famous Mozarabic text of 1500, and eight breviaries printed before 1500, most of which are on vellum. "The Book of Common Prayer" is represented by a long and interesting range of editions, including two of the first, issued in London in 1549, the rare quarto edition printed at Worcester in the same year, and Merbeck's "Common Prayer Noted," of 1550, followed by all the important revisions and variations. There are a number of the early Primers, and fifty editions of the dainty Books of Hours printed in Paris in the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries. The works of the reformers are well represented, with a large number of Luther's tracts, including the original edition, in book form, of the famous "Theses," printed in 1517, and his "Catechismus" of 1529, and a number of the earliest printed works of Erasmus, Hutten, Melanchthon, Savonarola, Zwingli, Tindale, Frith, Roy, Coverdale, Calvin, Knox, and Bunyan; the great devotional books such as St. Augustine's "Confessions," the "Imitatio Christi," the "Speculum Vitæ Christi," the "Scala perfectionis," the "Ars moriendi," and the "Ordinary of Christian Men" are all to be found in the earliest, and in the later editions of importance. On the modern side the student will find the library fully equipped in the departments of Biblical criticism, dogmatic theology, liturgiology, hagiography, church history, and comparative religion.

The ancient, mediæval, and modern schools of philosophy are fully represented, especially in metaphysics, experimental psychology, and psychical science.

36. "SAINT BEATUS ON THE APOCALYPSE"
Spanish MS. 12th Cent.

37. A PAGE OF "JOAN OF NAVARRE'S PSALTER"
French MS. About 1260

Sociology both on its political and economic side, and from the side of legal history, is well provided for, whilst in constitutional law and history, international law, and Roman law and jurisprudence, the equipment is thoroughly representative, including a special collection of the principal texts and commentaries of Justinian. The subject of Education is also well represented, both from the historical point of view, as from the standpoint of theory and practice. The works of the early humanist educators in the original editions will be found, side by side with the leading authorities in each department and period down to the present day, including a set of the " Monumenta Germaniæ Pedagogica ". SOCIOLOGY.

Bibliography, which may be regarded as the grammar of literary investigation, is extremely well represented. One of the foremost aims of the library, from the outset, has been to provide the student, in whatever direction his studies may lie, with a bibliography of his subject, when one exists, as the most essential tool of research. BIBLIOGRAPHY.

A special feature of the library is the periodical room, in which are made accessible to students the leading periodicals of all countries, to the number of nearly 400, dealing with such subjects as history, philology, philosophy, theology, literature, art, and archæology. The current numbers lie open for consultation, and with very few exceptions, complete sets of each from its commencement are in the possession of the library, constituting in many cases an unexplored mine of valuable research material. PERIODICALS.

Another of the outstanding features of the library is the collection of Oriental and Western manuscripts, the nucleus of which consisted of a small group of less than a hundred examples contained in the Althorp collection. These have been added to from time to time as opportunities have occurred, but the present magnificence and character of the collection was determined by the acquisition in 1901 of the manuscripts of the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, consisting of nearly 6000 rolls, tablets, and codices. From that time forward every effort has been employed to develop and enrich the collection along lines which already have been productive of excellent results in the stimulation of research. MANUSCRIPTS.

As evidence of the success which has attended these efforts, it needs only to be pointed out that the collection now numbers upwards

of 10,000 manuscripts, illustrating not only the history of writing and illumination, but also the history of the materials and methods which have been employed from the earliest times for the preservation and transmission of knowledge from one age to another, and at the same time offering to students in many departments of research original sources of great interest and importance.

On the Oriental side the languages represented are the following : Abyssinian, Armenian, Ethiopic, Sanskrit, Pali, Panjabi, Hindustani, Marathi, Parsi, Pehlevi, Burmese, Canarese, Singhalese, Tamil, Chinese, Japanese, Malay, Javanese, Achinese, Mongolian, Balinese, Thibetan, Mo-So, Batak, Bugi, Kawi, Madurese, Makassar, and Mexican.

Of more general interest are the Arabic, Persian, and Turkish manuscripts, numbering nearly 2000 volumes, a preliminary examination of which has led to the discovery of several inedited texts of far-reaching importance, notably an unrecorded apology of Islam, written at Baghdad in 850 A.D. The examples of the Kurān, dating from the eighth and ninth centuries, in the stately Cufic and Nashki characters, are in many cases of surpassing beauty and rarity, three of them being written throughout in letters of gold.

Amongst the papyrus rolls and fragments are examples of the " Book of the Dead " both in hieroglyphic and hieratic, and large and important collections of Demotic, Coptic, Arabic, and Greek documents.

There are several very fine Gospel books in the collection of Greek codices, but the most important member of the group is a considerable fragment of the " Odyssey," possibly of the later decades of the third century of the present era, which consequently takes rank among the earliest examples of vellum books which have come down to us.

In Syriac the library possesses a vellum codex of the Peshitta Gospels of the sixth century, and what is probably the earliest known complete New Testament of the Heraclean version, written about A.D. 1000, besides a number of other outstanding texts which await examination. By far the most noteworthy manuscript in this language is that which enshrines the " Odes and Psalms of Solomon," discovered by Dr. Rendel Harris in 1909, and which already has excited such world-wide interest that quite a library of literature has grown

38. A PAGE OF A MANUSCRIPT APOCALYPSE

Northern French. 14th Cent.

39. A PAGE OF LYDGATE'S "SIEGE OF TROY"
English MS. About 1420

up around it. The Hebrew collection comprises a number of fine "Rolls of the Law," and of the "Megilloth," several illuminated codices of the "Haggadah," and a number of liturgical texts. In Samaritan there is a remarkable group of Biblical and liturgical codices, including a very interesting vellum copy of the "Pentateuch" written A.D. 1211.

Amongst recent acquisitions on the Oriental side is a collection of upwards of a hundred palm-leaf manuscripts of the Buddhist scriptures in Pali, Singhalese, Burmese, and Thibetan, many of which are of exquisite workmanship. Another group of considerable importance on account of their extreme rarity, consists of about a hundred pieces of undetermined antiquity, in the language of the Mo-So people, a non-Chinese race scattered throughout Southern China, which are written in picture characters on a thick Oriental paper of uneven texture, apparently brown with age.

Turning to the Western manuscripts, whether produced in England, Flanders, France, Germany, Italy, or Spain, there are some hundreds, comprising examples of first class quality of the art and calligraphy of the great mediæval writing schools of Europe, ranging from the sixth to the nineteenth century, and covering a wide range of subjects including: Biblical, liturgical, and patristic texts, hagiography, theology, classics, chronicles, histories, charters, papal bulls, pedigrees, heraldry, law, science, and alchemy. Many of these manuscripts are encased in jewelled and enamelled bindings in metal and ivory, dating from the tenth to the twelfth century, which impart to them a character and value of a very special kind.

During the last few years considerable additions have been made to this Western section, many of which are of considerable historical importance, including a number purchased at recent sales of the collections of the late Sir Thomas Phillipps. The following items, taken almost at random, may be mentioned as indicating the character of these recent acquisitions: Cartularies of St. Mary's Abbey at York, Warden Abbey, Tolethorpe, Melsa, and one volume of that of Fountains Abbey; several early papal bulls; an interesting collection of briefs, patents, wills, marriage contracts, deeds of gift and other documents relating to the Medici family, from the Medici Archives; a number of wardrobe and household expenses books of King Edward I, King Edward II, Queen Philippa of Hainault, Queen

Joan of Navarre, and Queen Catherine of Aragon ; a treasury account book of King Charles VI of France ; a fourteenth century chronicle of the Dukes of Normandy and Kings of England ; a large number of court and manor rolls ; the original collections of Sir John and Sir Henry Savile for the history of Yorkshire ; two fifteenth century manuscripts of Richard Rolle of Hampole ; a fifteenth century illustrated chronicle in roll form ; a fourteenth century Latin Bible on uterine vellum ; a palimpsest Icelandic manuscript of laws promulgated in Iceland from 1281 to 1541, and many other documents which are of interest to students of diplomatic as representing the legal and court hands of the same period, comprising all aspects of the study, and including about 2000 charters, of which 100 were acquired at the recent sale of the Baroness Beaumont's collection.

With a view of providing for the wider interest in the study of Greek and Latin palæography and diplomatic, which may be looked for as a result of the development of this side of historical and classical study at the University in recent years, every effort has been made to provide as complete an equipment as possible of the principal authorities, with the result that the collection now numbers upwards of 1000 volumes, covering all branches of the subject, and including catalogues of the manuscripts in the principal public and private collections throughout the world, whether dispersed or still existing.

HISTORIC BOOKS.

The library possesses a large number of books which have an interest in themselves as coming from the libraries of such famous collectors as Grolier, Thomas Maioli, Canevari, Marcus Laurinus, De Thou, Comte d'Hoym, Duc de La Vallière, Loménie de Brienne, Diane de Poitiers, Henri II, Margaret de Valois, Marie de Medicis, Charles d'Angoulême, the French and the English Kings and Queens, Thomas Wotton, who has come to be known as the English Grolier, many Popes and lesser church dignitaries, and others too numerous to mention. As an indication of the interest surrounding such volumes, mention may be made of a few taken at random. There is a copy on vellum of the " Assertio Septem Sacramentorum adversus M. Lutherum " of Henry VIII, for which he received the title " Defensor Fidei," and which he presented to Louis II, King of Hungary, with an inscription in his own handwriting " Regi Daciae," on the binding of which are the arms of Pope Pius VI. The Aldine edition of Petrarch of 1501, is from the library of Cardinal Bembo,

40. A PAGE OF "KING CHARLES VII'S BOOK OF HOURS"
French MS. About 1430

41. A PAGE OF A "BOOK OF HOURS"
French MS Late 15th Cent.

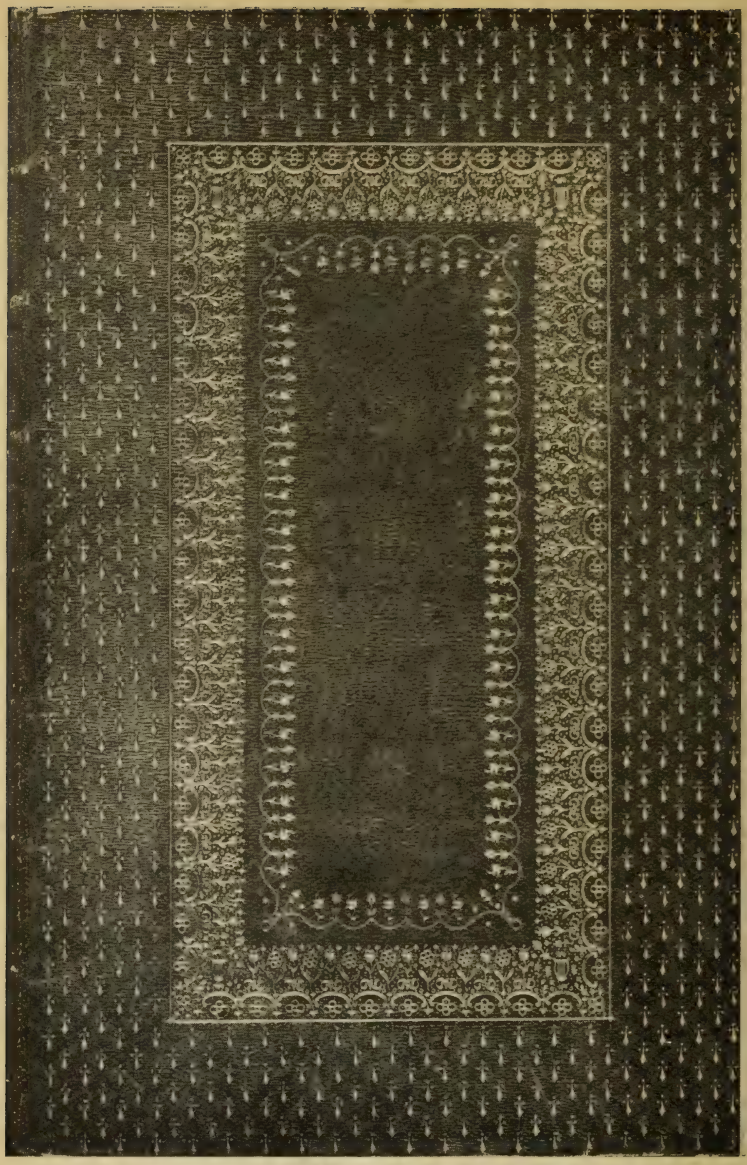
and contains marginalia in his handwriting. If, as one authority has declared, "To own one or two examples from Jean Grolier's library is to take high rank as a bibliophile," this library merits a commanding position, since it possesses thirteen such volumes, one of which contains this collector's autograph, whilst another is filled with marginalia said to be in his handwriting. The copy of the first edition of the "Epistolæ obscurorum virorum," the tract which caused so great a stir at the time of the Reformation, belonged to Philip Melanchthon, and contains many marginalia from his pen. Martin Luther's "In primum librum Mose ennarationes" 1544, has upon its title-page an inscription in Hebrew and Latin, in Luther's handwriting, presenting the book to Marc Crodel, rector of the College of Torgau. Other volumes notable by reason of their ownership are: the "Book of Hours" which belonged to Mary Queen of Scots, having two inscriptions in her handwriting; the manuscript copy of Wiclif's Gospels, which was presented to Queen Elizabeth in Cheapside when on her way to St. Paul's, an event which is recorded in Holinshed's "Chronicles"; the "Book of Hours" of King Charles VII of France; the Psalter which belonged to Queen Joan of Navarre, the second consort of our King Henry IV, bearing her autograph; the "Book of Devotions" written and illuminated by or for the Abbot John Islip, the builder of the Chantry Chapel of Henry VII in Westminster Abbey, bearing in the illuminated borders the same punning rebus on his name which is to be found in the carvings of the Chapel, and presented to Henry VII, with the arms of the King on the binding; the gorgeous "Missale Romanum" with many illuminations by Clovio, bearing the arms of Cardinal Pompeo Colonna and said to have been presented to him when he was raised to the Cardinalate; the Gospel Book which belonged to the Emperor Otto the Great, bearing on one of its illuminated pages his effigy. Coming nearer to our own day there is the Bible which Elizabeth Fry used daily for many years, which is full of marks and comments in her handwriting. The Bible from Hawarden Church is of interest as being the identical copy from which W. E. Gladstone frequently read the lessons in the course of divine service between 1884 and 1894. There is also the original manuscript of Bishop Heber's hymn "From Greenland's Icy Mountains". Another volume of more than ordinary interest, the "Valdarfer Boccaccio," to which reference has been made

already, came into prominence at the sale of the Duke of Roxburghe's books in 1812, when it realised the sum of £2260. It was in honour of the sale of the volume that the Roxburghe Club was founded. The copy of the Glasgow Æschylus of 1759 has bound up with it the original drawings of Flaxman, and is clothed in a binding by Roger Payne, which is always spoken of as his masterpiece. Such are a few of the books possessing a personal history, which, in considerable numbers are to be found upon the shelves.

FAMOUS BINDINGS.

If the books themselves excite interest and admiration, not less striking is the appropriateness, and often the magnificence of their bindings. Lord Spencer believed that a good book should be honoured by a good binding, and he either sought out copies so distinguished or had them clothed in bindings of the highest artistic excellence. Of the many specimens in the library illustrating the history of the art from the fifteenth century to the present day, we need only refer to the great artists who worked for the famous collectors named in the preceding paragraph as figuring in the collection, with examples of the work of Clovis and Nicolas Eve, Le Gascon, Boyet, the two Deromes, the Padeloups, Geoffrey Tory, Bozerian, Thouvenin, Mearne, the English masters of the seventeenth century, whose names, unhappily, have been forgotten, and of Roger Payne, the man who by native genius shines out among the decadent craftsmen of the late eighteenth century as the finest binder England has produced. The library possesses the largest collection extant of Payne's bindings, including the Glasgow "Æschylus," already referred to as his finest work, and the unfinished Aldine "Homer," which he did not live to complete. Several of Payne's bills are in the library, which are remarkable documents, containing, as they do, in many cases, interesting particulars as to his methods of workmanship. The tradition of fine binding was continued after his death by certain German binders, Kalthoeber, Staggemeier, and others, who settled in London, also by Charles Lewis, and Charles Hering who especially imitated his manner, but lacked the original genius of Payne, and his delicacy of finish. Many specimens of the work of these successors of Payne are to be found scattered throughout the library. The library is almost equally rich in specimens of the work of the great modern binders, especially since the advent of the Lloyd Roberts Collection. These include the work achieved by Trautz-Bauzonnet, David, Lortic, Marius Michel, Chambolle-Duru, Cuzin, Edwards of Halifax, Francis Bed-

42. A PAGE OF THE "COLONNA MISSAL"
Italian MS. About 1517



43. A ROGER PAYNE BINDING

ford, Rivière, Cobden Sanderson, Prideaux, Fazakerley, and Zaehnsdorf, to mention the most prominent names. Indeed, it is not too much to say that the whole history of the art of binding might be written from the examples assembled on the shelves of this library.

We can only make a brief reference to the thirty jewelled covers with which some of the manuscripts are adorned, which impart to them a character and value of a very special kind. The extraordinary rarity of these metal and ivory bindings may be gauged by the fact that this collection, whilst containing only thirty examples, yet ranks third among the collections of the world. Many of the covers are of great beauty and interest, none the less so for the process of building up which they have undergone in long past centuries. The normal course seems to have been as follows : a monastery owned a precious tenth century " textus " or manuscript of the Gospels ; it also possessed an ivory " pax " or tablet carved with one or more scenes from the life of Christ, of, perhaps, a century later. A century later still it occurred to some rich abbot to have the second mounted as a cover for the first, and he would call in some jeweller or metal worker from Cologne or Liège, who would encase the tablet in a metal frame richly encrusted with jewels, which had been bequeathed to the church for the enrichment of the reliquary or the altar books, to make the same into a binding to protect the manuscript. Several of the covers to which reference is made partake of the character of reliquaries, since under the four huge rock crystals set at each of the four corners, relics of saints have been preserved ; unfortunately no information is at present available to enable us to determine the identity of the saints so honoured.

The collection also includes a number of very fine Oriental bindings, of which the Persian specimens in particular are of very great beauty.

Then it should be mentioned that for the study of this art or craft, whether from the historical or practical point of view, there is a complete equipment of the principal authorities.

Much might have been written about the large and growing collection of " unique " books, that is to say printed books of which the only known copy is in the possession of the library, but we must content ourselves with this passing allusion to it. Of books printed on vellum the collection numbers upwards of 400, many of which are of extreme rarity, and also of great beauty. There are a number of very fine extra-illustrated or " Grangerised " works, such as Rapin's

"History of England" in twenty-one folio volumes; Pennant's "Some Account of London" in six volumes; Clarendon's "History of the Rebellion and Civil Wars in England" in twenty-one volumes; Shakespeare in seventeen volumes; Chalmers' "Biographical Dictionary" in thirty-two volumes; and many others.

There is a complete set of the astronomical works of Hevelius, seldom found in a condition so perfect. Although ornithology and botany are somewhat out of the range of the library's interests, there is a fine collection of the great bird books of Audubon, Gould, Dresser, and Lilford, to name the principal authorities; and a number of the great herbals, ranging from the Latin and German editions of the "Herbarius" of 1484 and 1485, to Sander's "Reichenbachia" of 1888-94, including the original or best editions of Gerard, Parkinson, Curtis, Jacquin, Dodoens, Culpepper, etc.

The art section comprises the great European "galleries," the principal monographs on the great masters, a complete set of the works of Piranesi, a set of Turner's "Liber Studiorum" in the best states, and a large collection of works on architecture. The applied arts are also well represented. Indeed, the art student will find abundant material in whatever direction his quest may lead him.

We have already greatly exceeded the number of pages which we had allotted to ourselves for the purpose of this hurried glance at the contents of the library, and yet only the fringe of a few of the most important collections have been touched upon in the most superficial way, whilst many sections have had to be passed over entirely. We hope, however, that these hurriedly written and necessarily discursive notes may serve the purpose we had in view, of conveying some idea of the importance of this carefully chosen collection of the world's literary masterpieces, in the earliest and best editions, many of which are in the finest possible condition and state of preservation.

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS.

We cannot conclude this brief review of the history of the library during the years of its minority without some reference to the ever increasing appreciation of the institution and its work which has found expression in the numerous gifts and bequests of books, by which its collections have been so greatly enriched. As evidence of this, it needs only to be stated, that since the inauguration of the library, upwards of forty thousand volumes have been added to its shelves from this source alone.

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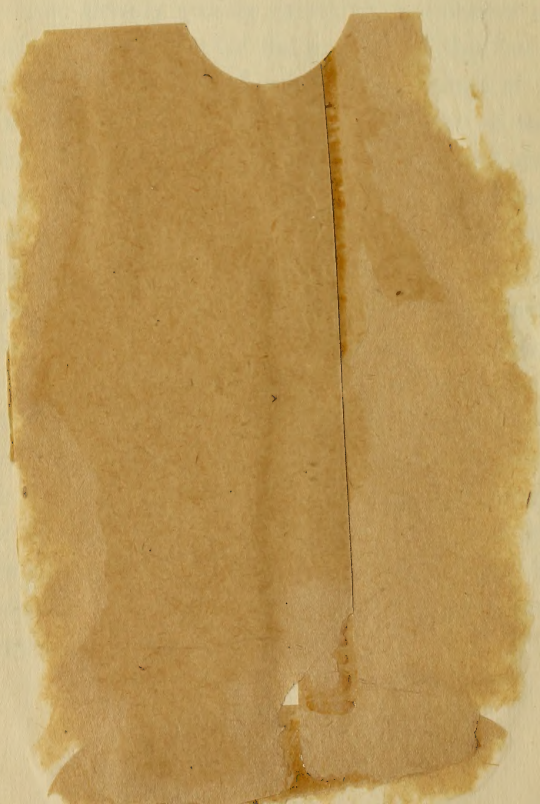

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